the PHANTOM®

the complete newspaper dailies: Volume One 1936-1937

lee falk and ray moore

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introduction by ron goulart

afterword by ed rhoades

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Publisher's Note

Even though I always thought *The Phantom* was one of the best newspaper strips ever, because my daughter and I spent many Saturday mornings watching *Phantom 2040* the character and his world have a special place in my heart. The cartoon got her interested in the strip, the character, and the world of The Phantom, leading up to the whole family seeing the 1996 big screen version of the title many, many times. So, the character is a Herman family favorite. A complete reprint of the strip just seemed a natural, hence this volume and the subsequent reprints to come.

— *Daniel Herman*, Publisher

printed in China

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THE

PHANTOM

FEATURE BOOK No. 20

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THIS IS A KING FEATURES COMIC

THE PHANTOM

The

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I.C.D.

IN THE BLUE GANG

FEATURE BOOK No.57

introduction

Enter The Ghost Who Walks

Phantoms flourished in the early and middle 1930s. The Phantom Detective started doing his stuff in his own monthly pulp fiction magazine in February of 1933. The Phantom Magician entered *The Adventures of Patsy* in 1935. This daily newspaper strip was written and drawn by Mel Graff, who earlier had illustrated the first issue of *The Phantom Detective*. The silver screen offered *The Phantom of Crestwood, The Phantom of Paris, The Phantom President* and even *The Phantom Ship*.

Then in February of 1936 one of the most successful and long-lasting of them all entered the scene by way of King Features Syndicate's new daily adventure strip *The Phantom*, written by Lee Falk and drawn by Ray Moore. Originally a playboy turned mystery man, this latest Phantom had some affinities with earlier playboys who dabbled in crime fighting — including Lamont Cranston who battled gangdom as The Shadow and Richard Wentworth who pursued fiends and criminal masterminds as The Spider. In 1914, an earlier and most influential precursor appeared in Street and Smith's *People's Magazine* in the person of Jimmie Dale, alias The Gray Seal. He was the creation of Canadian author Frank L. Packard. Inspired by such earlier cracksmen as Raffles and Jimmy Valentine, Jimmie Dale did them one better. He had an alternate identity, that of The Gray Seal, who skulked through the midnight streets of New York, masked and mysterious. Hunted by the police, but actually a man dedicated to justice, he struck swiftly and left behind only a small sticker, the notorious gray seal. In the everyday world Jimmie was a wealthy playboy and when he wasn't being The Gray Seal, he had several other alter egos to use. One of the mastermind villains he combated, one of the leaders of the infamous Crime Club, was called The Phantom. Jimmie Dale began appearing in books in 1917. Initially it was strongly hinted that Falk's masked and costumed Phantom was the alter ego of man-about-town Jimmy Wells, described by one of the young women in the strip as "rich and lazy and nice and good-looking." Diana Palmer, who was destined to be *the* woman in The Phantom's life, appeared in the strip from the very first day, several days before the advent of The Phantom himself, as you'll see in the strips ahead. At various points in her

***The Phantom*, Feature Book #20, 1938 and *The Phantom* in "The Blue Gang," Feature Book #57, 1949.**

active and adventurous life she would be an explorer, an aviatrix, a nurse and an Olympic swimmer. Although a crackerjack athlete, Diana was almost as trouble-prone as the Lane girls, both Lois and Margot. The Phantom was frequently called upon to rescue her and he served as a combination guardian angel and fairy godfather. Whenever the feisty brunette got into a jam, he seemed to sense it and pop in to extricate her. On the very first day of the strip, "on board the S.S. Trotter as it nears New York harbor, bearing a **curious** cargo from the South Seas," she is introduced boxing with her personal trainer. You'll notice that Diana is decked out in shorts and a singlet, then in a bathing suit, in this opening sequence. The comic strip was much less sedate and polite than it was a couple of decades later. You wouldn't title it *Spicy Phantom*, but the youthful Falk certainly considered pretty, sparsely clad young women an important part of this cast.

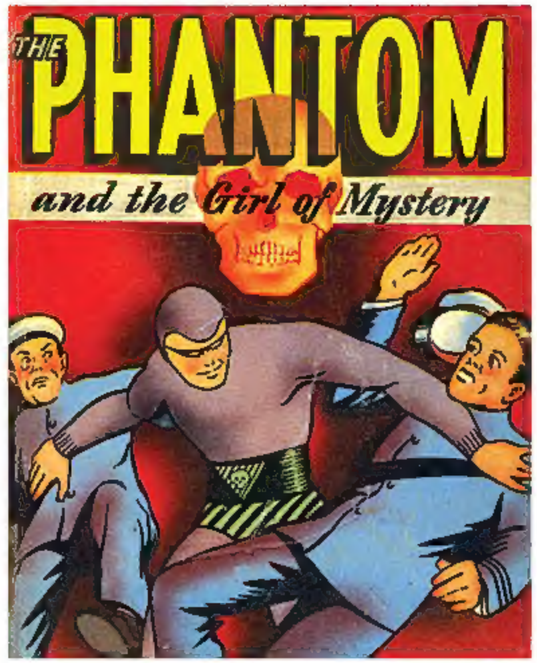
That "curious cargo" turns out to be ambergris, which the dictionary defines as "an opaque, ash-colored, morbid secretion of the sperm whale intestine, fragrant when heated: used in perfumery." Ambergris is also very valuable. A New York gangster, one Fats Morgan, attempts to seize Diana's ship and grab the ambergris with the help of his team of hoodlums. On the strip's fourth day, "a dripping shadow climbs silently out of the black waters." This is readers' first glimpse of the gray-clad Phantom, whom Falk had originally thought of calling The Gray Ghost. He rescues Diana from the Fats mob, using his fists and considerable cunning. The very first use of the Sign of the Phantom occurs on the daily of March 5, on a thug's jaw. It is not exactly clear if he's producing the mark with a ring. The next day, he kisses Diana, who's still wearing that skin-tight bathing suit. This gives us a strong hint that

The Phantom's motives are not entirely altruistic. Soon a much more sinister villain enters in the person of Prince Achmed Singh. Turns out he hired Fats and he wants not the ambergris but Diana herself — "We of the Orient have our own way of getting what we want!...I'll get Diana Palmer on my own!" There's a strong hint that what the turbaned prince has in mind for the young woman is a fate worse than death.

Jimmy Wells, the supposedly idle playboy, now, languidly, enters and calls on Miss Palmer. He looks suspiciously like The Phantom without his hood and tiny mask. He even has the same nose. The masked hero continues to look after the girl. Prince Achmed succeeds in kidnapping her, The Phantom saves her, but the prince snatches her back again. As Diana is being kidnapped and unkidnapped, Lee Falk was struck with a new notion, one that changed the whole direction of the strip and relegated poor Jimmy to limbo. At the time a reader would have been justified in saying, "Hey, wait a minute. I thought Jimmy Wells was The Phantom." To which Falk could've replied, "Well, so did I."

In an interview years later, the writer said, "The first few months he was Jimmy Wells, a very attractive playboy, in love with Diana who liked him as a friend and a brother. But she was in love with a mysterious masked man who appeared out of nowhere to help her during her first troubles. Of course, it was Jimmy, but I didn't go to the trouble to reveal this." Falk added, "Later on, I began to change the whole concept as I became intrigued with the whole mythical notion about 400 years and 20 generations of Phantoms in the jungle. The more I got into that, I kept adding to the background."

Opposite page: *The Phantom*, Harvey Comics Hits #51, 1951 with a classic pre-Comics Code cover. Right: *The Phantom*, Feature Book #22, 1939.



As comics historian Will Murray has pointed out, "This was the pivotal point of The Phantom saga. Abruptly, Falk abandoned Jimmy Wells and embroiled The Phantom and the lady explorer with a vicious pirate band named the Singh Brotherhood. With that, the strip shifts to the South Seas where the true history of The Phantom is revealed. Back in 1525, Singh Pirates captured a merchant vessel near India, slaughtering Captain Standish and his crew. The only survivor, his son, swore an oath on the skull of his father's killer to devote his life to stamping out the Singh. He became the first Phantom, and every eldest son since took up the mask and costume of The Ghost Who Walks, creating the illusion of an immortal being dedicated to eradicating evil."

As the strip continues, Falk becomes increasingly fascinated with expanding, and amplifying the origin of his hero that he'd decided on. "I think I gradually developed it at first," he said in an interview with Will Murray. "But the more I did with it, the more intrigued I became with it. I kept adding to it. Included more background." When Diana asks if The Phantom "will explain The Ghost Who Walks — the Singh Brotherhood — and all that," he suggests that she consult a Dr. James Dodd, who is, among other things, an expert

Above, left to right: *The Phantom* Big Little Book, 1939; *The Phantom* Big Little Book, 1941; *The Phantom*, Feature Book #56, 1949; and The *Phantom* Big Little Book #1416, 1949. Opposite page: US 1 sheet movie poster, 27 inches by 41 inches, from the Columbia Pictures serial *The Phantom*.

on the history of The Phantom. The bearded old scholar recounts an attack by a shipload Singh Pirates while he was off the cost of Sumatra on a sailing trip with his father in 1866. The professor, his father, and the ship's crew are rescued by The Phantom. Appearing on their bridge, the masked man utters one of his favorite warnings — "The Phantom warns but once." As he stops speaking "the Singh Pirate ship blew into atoms."

Since the professor says he saw The Phantom some 70 years ago, Diana, of course, assumes that the old boy is dotty. But soon after, The Phantom shows up at her apartment to give her a detailed account of his family traditions and the legends of centuries of Phantoms. When the young woman asks why he's telling all this to her, he explains that every Phantom is allowed to confide in the woman he intends to marry. Little did either of them suspect that it would be over four decades before they'd get around to tying the knot. Like many another comic strip hero, he was forced to practice marriage interruptus, since every time he and Diana planned a wedding, some criminal conspiracy calling for his immediate intervention came up.

Falk, as you'll see on the pages ahead, has a great deal of fun with his mystery man. The initial story sequence, which stretches across several months is rich with cliffhangers, hairbreadth rescues, kidnappings, torture (including the threatened use of the Chinese Boot-Screw), car chases, motorboat chases, airplane chases, fires, and romantic interludes. He manages to create a satisfying amalgam of adventure movie, matinee serial, and pulp fiction novel (although Falk is on record as saying he read few pulps).

He did, however, acknowledge in his assorted media appearances that he was impressed by the apeman which influenced his changing

The Phantom's venue from an urban one to one with a lot of jungle underfoot.

Besides the fast-paced continuities, one of the other reasons for the popularity of the strip was the continual supply of pretty young women who frequented the continuities. Branching out eventually, the Phantom looked after not only Diana but whatever other damsels in distress who came into his ken. In addition, he frequently went up against female criminals, quite sexy ones. His second daily outing, which runs from November of 1936 to April of 1937, finds him battling and eventually outwitting a group of attractive flying young lady outlaws known as the Sky Band, who practice aerial piracy. Since The Phantom has taken a vow to combat piracy, this is right up his alley. As was to happen fairly frequently throughout the early years of his career, more than one of these crooked lady air pirates developed a crush on him. While he took advantage of this to thwart these flying buccaneers, he remained, more or less, faithful to Diana. He was rather harsh on women who'd crossed the line into criminality. In commenting on the death of the nasty lady who headed up the Sky Band, he observes, "She betrayed the band and destroyed herself — because she was a woman — with a woman's heart and hate — and jealousy." In a later story (not included here) wherein he encounters a revived Sky Band, he is perplexed by some of the ladies' behavior and, paraphrasing Freud, he complains, "These women! Who can figure them out?"

The third and final story in this initial reprint volume is entitled "The Diamond Hunters." It continues the development of The

Left: *The Phantom*, Feature Book #39, 1944. Opposite page: covers from the Gold Key series from the 1960s featuring The Ghost Who Walks. Left: *The Phantom* #11, 1965. Right: artwork for the cover from *The Phantom* #1, 1962. Both covers feature artwork by George Wilson.

GOLD KEY
THE PHANTOM
12c
THE PHANTOM
by LEE FALK
10014-504
APRIL
Suddenly blinded,
The Phantom needs all his
powers to overcome a pirate gang!

Phantom legend further. By the autumn of 1937 most of the basic ingredients of that legend are firmly in place.

Creators of The Ghost Who Walks

Leon Harrison Gross was born on April 28, 1911, in St. Louis. By the time he sold his first comic strip, *Mandrake the Magician*, he had changed his name to Lee Falk. His tendency was to shave a few years off his age and he often told interviewers that he was a 19-year-old junior at the University of Illinois when he started *Mandrake*. Actually he was twenty-three, still an impressively young age to sell a comic strip to the largest syndicate in America, William Randolph Hearst's King Features. Two years later he came up with *The Phantom* and King bought that one as well. A legend has grown up among some fans of The Ghost Who Walks that Falk, who had a knack for drawing, drew the first two weeks of the strip that actually ran in the newspapers. You can see that Ray Moore's work was there from the starting day and by the second week he is signing the strip. "Ray and Lee may have worked together," Moore's wife once said. "But Ray always drew it for publishing."

Lee Falk wrote both of his comic strips for just about all of his life and is said to have been dictating continuity on his death-bed in 1999. During World War II, he worked for the Office of War Information and had help with some of the scripting. He hired Alfred Bester, a comic book and radio writer, to write *The Phantom*. Bester, who graduated to writing *The Shadow* and *Charlie Chan* for radio, later authored *The Demolished Man* and *The Stars My*

Right: cover from *The Phantom*, Comics Hits #56, 1952. Opposite page: two "Phantom" rings.

Destination, which remain classic science fiction novels. Falk's first love was always the theater and he once said, "I give 100% of my time to the theater and what's left goes to comics." According to one biographical account during his lifetime "he ran five theaters, and produced around 300 plays, and directed 100 of them. He wrote twelve plays, two of them musicals."

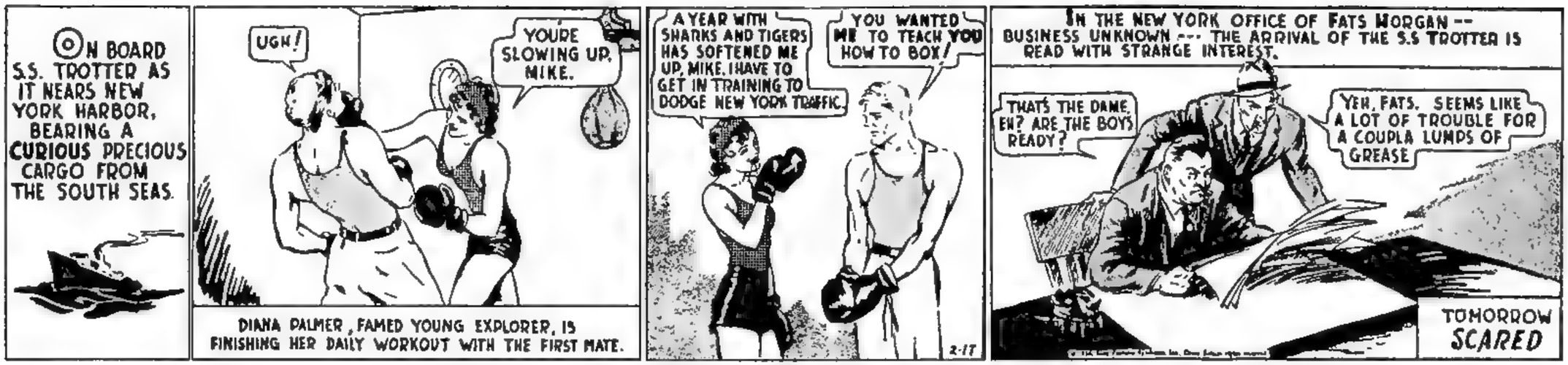
Ray Moore, a commercial artist from St. Louis, had been an assistant to *Mandrake* cartoonist Phil Davis and Falk got him to draw his new comic strip. By the middle 1930s, the editors at King Features had settled on their favorite style for adventure strips: the dry brush illustrative approach Alex Raymond was using on the daily *Secret Agent X-9* and the Sunday *Flash Gordon/Jungle Jim* page. Phil Davis was using a variation on *Mandrake* and Charles Flanders was persuaded to become an exponent when he took over *X-9* and *King of the Royal Mounted*. It was natural therefore that Ray Moore would draw *The Phantom* in his best approximation of the Raymond look preferred by the syndicate. Moore adapted a more cinematic approach to story telling, making good use of long shots, close ups, what movies call crane shots, etc. This was the sort of thing that Milton Caniff was doing in *Terry and The Pirates* and it changed the look of many of the serious strips on the comic page.

A few years older than Falk, he was in his early thirties when he began illuminating the adventures of The Ghost Who Walks. He would remain on the job until entering the Service in 1942. He returned, for a shorter stretch, in 1945.

— Ron Goulart

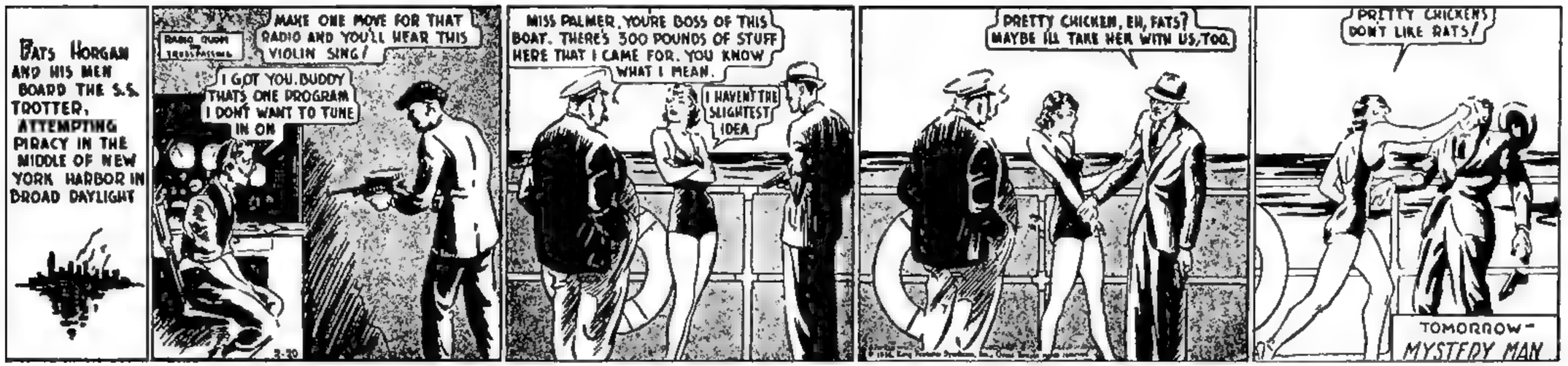
Chapter 1: The Singh Brotherhood

the PHANTOM®


ON BOARD S.S. TROTTER AS IT NEARS NEW YORK HARBOR, BEARING A CURIOUS PRECIOUS CARGO FROM THE SOUTH SEAS.
UGH!
YOURE SLOWING UP, MIKE.
DIANA PALMER, FAMED YOUNG EXPLORER, IS FINISHING HER DAILY WORKOUT WITH THE FIRST MATE.
A YEAR WITH SHARKS AND TIGERS HAS SOFTENED ME UP, MIKE. I HAVE TO GET IN TRAINING TO DODGE NEW YORK TRAFFIC.
YOU WANTED ME TO TEACH YOU HOW TO BOX!
2-17
IN THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF FATS MORGAN -- BUSINESS UNKNOWN --- THE ARRIVAL OF THE S.S TROTTER IS READ WITH STRANGE INTEREST.
THATS THE DAME, EH? ARE THE BOYS READY?
YEH, FATS. SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR A COUPLA LUMPS OF GREASE
TOMORROW SCARED

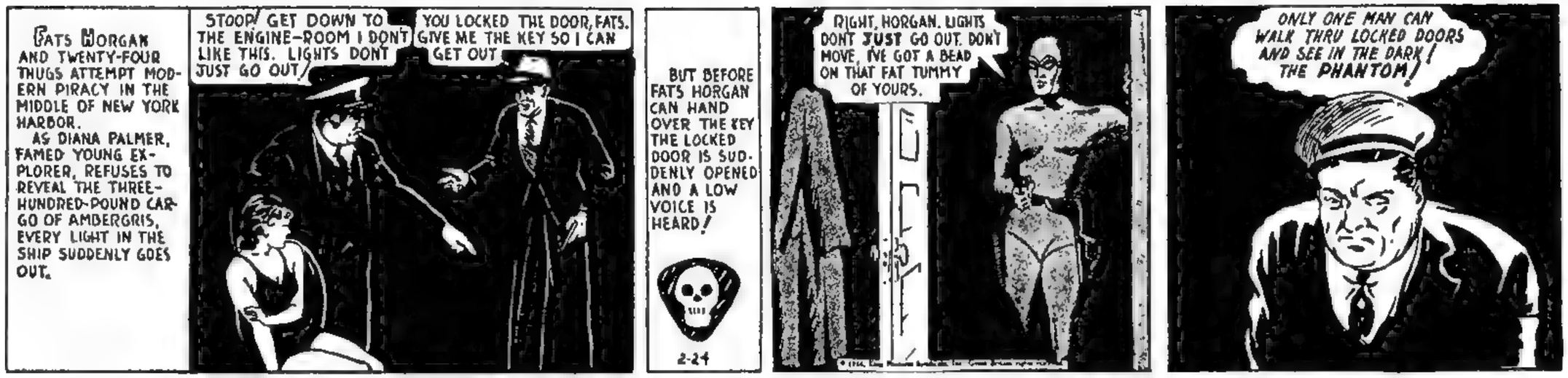
WHY ALL THE ARTILLERY ON THIS EASY JOB? WHATS THERE TO BE ASCARED OF?
MAYBE FATS IS SCARED OF GHOSTS.
2-18
USE THAT WORD AGAIN AND ILL PLUG YOU! IF THERES BEEN ANY LEAKS THIS TIME--!
AW, FATS. I-I- WAS JUST KIDDING.
TAKE IT EASY, FATS. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES IN. HOW COULD HE KNOW ABOUT IT?
HOW? HOW DOES HE COME OUT OF NO-WHERE AND THEN GO RIGHT BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM?
OUR BOAT'S READY, AND GET THIS! IF ANY OF YOU WISEHEIMERS SEE ANYTHING THAT EVEN LOOKS LIKE A GHOST- BLAST IT! EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO SINK THE S.S. TROTTER!

O.K., SIR, RIGHT AWAY.
IMMIGRATION OFFICERS LOWER A LADDER.
A SMALL SPEEDBOAT HAILS THE S.S. TROTTER, AS IT NEARS NEW YORK HARBOR.
2-19
YES, OFFICER, I'M DIANA PALMER I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE PASSED THRU QUARANTINE A HALF-HOUR AGO
STICK UP YOUR HANDS, MA'AM. THE REST OF YOUR CREW IS COVERED.
YOU'RE-NOT-- IMMIGRATION OFFICERS? THIS IS A HOLDUP?
PIRACY! IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW YORK HARBOR IN BROAD DAYLIGHT! YOU CANT GET AWAY WITH IT!
NO? JUST WATCH US, MA'AM
TOMORROW··· "PRETTY CHICKEN"

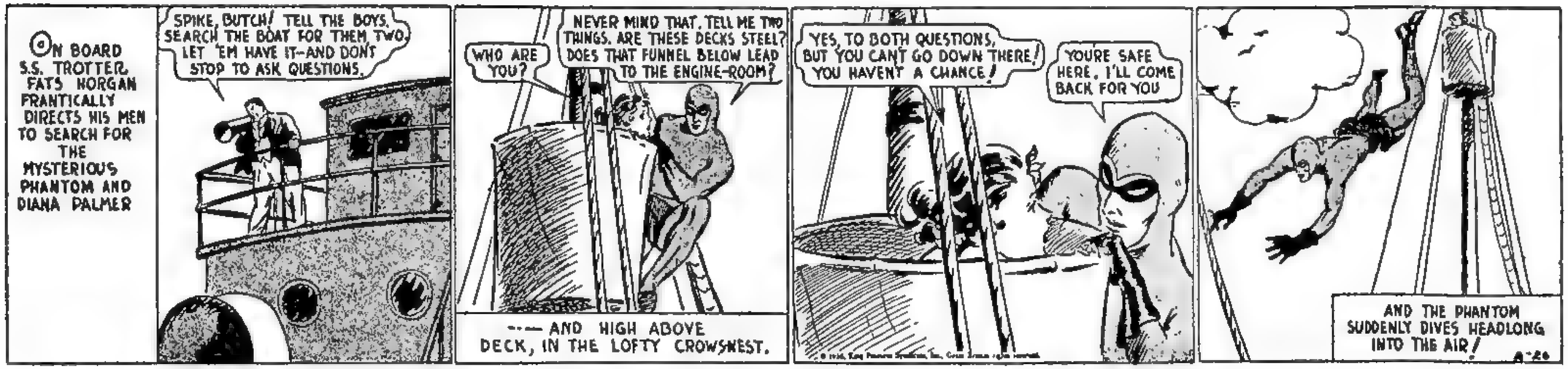

FATS HORGAN AND HIS MEN BOARD THE S.S. TROTTER, ATTEMPTING PIRACY IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW YORK HARBOR IN BROAD DAYLIGHT
MAKE ONE MOVE FOR THAT RADIO AND YOU'LL HEAR THIS VIOLIN SING!
I GOT YOU, BUDDY THATS ONE PROGRAM I DONT WANT TO TUNE IN ON
3-20
MISS PALMER, YOU'RE BOSS OF THIS BOAT. THERE'S 300 POUNDS OF STUFF HERE THAT I CAME FOR. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
I HAVENT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA
PRETTY CHICKEN, EH, FATS? MAYBE I'LL TAKE HER WITH US, TOO.
PRETTY CHICKENS DON'T LIKE RATS!
TOMORROW- MYSTERY MAN

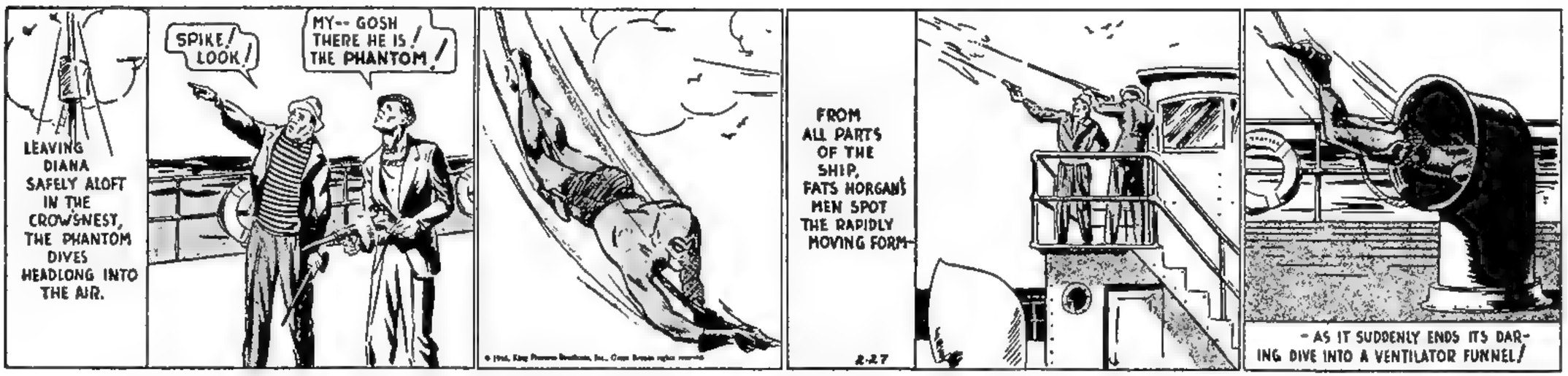
YOU'VE GOT AT LEAST TWO DOZEN MEN ON THIS BOAT ARMED TO THE TEETH AGAINST MY CREW OF TEN. WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING AN ARMY?
DON'T THINK WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SAIL OR BOYS
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, MA'AM. SIX OF US WOULDA BEEN ENOUGH FOR THIS SCOW. THE EXTRA PROTECTION IS FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SOMETIMES I THINK HE AIN'T A MAN, BUT A GHOST. BUT HERE'S ONE JOB HE WON'T SNATCH UNDER MY NOSE! HA! HE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS ONE.
ON A FAR SIDE OF THE S.S. TROTTER A DRIPPING SHADOW CLIMBS SILENTLY OUT OF THE BLACK WATERS.
2-21

FATS HORGAN AND HIS MEN BOARD THE S.S. TROTTER, ATTEMPTING PIRACY IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW YORK HARBOR IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. MEANWHILE, A MYSTERIOUS SHADOWY FIGURE HAS BOARDED THE SHIP.
WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT YOU!
DOWN TO CASES, MA'AM, THERE'S 300 POUNDS OF AMBERGRIS ON THIS BOAT, WORTH $30 DOLLARS AN OUNCE! WHERE IS IT?
2-22
SMART BABY, EH! HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GO SWIMMING WITH A LOAD OF PIG-IRON AROUND THAT PRETTY NECK?
I LIKE THE WATER ON--STOP.
WHAT THE-
SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING, EVERY LIGHT IN THE SHIP GOES OUT!


FATS HORGAN AND TWENTY-FOUR THUGS ATTEMPT MODERN PIRACY IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW YORK HARBOR.
AS DIANA PALMER, FAMED YOUNG EXPLORER, REFUSES TO REVEAL THE THREE-HUNDRED-POUND CARGO OF AMBERGRIS, EVERY LIGHT IN THE SHIP SUDDENLY GOES OUT.
STOOP! GET DOWN TO THE ENGINE-ROOM I DON'T LIKE THIS. LIGHTS DON'T JUST GO OUT!
YOU LOCKED THE DOOR, FATS. GIVE ME THE KEY SO I CAN GET OUT.
BUT BEFORE FATS HORGAN CAN HAND OVER THE KEY THE LOCKED DOOR IS SUDDENLY OPENED AND A LOW VOICE IS HEARD!
2-24
RIGHT, HORGAN. LIGHTS DON'T JUST GO OUT. DON'T MOVE, I'VE GOT A BEAD ON THAT FAT TUMMY OF YOURS.
ONLY ONE MAN CAN WALK THRU LOCKED DOORS AND SEE IN THE DARK! THE PHANTOM!

THE PHANTOM! HOW DID YOU -- HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS JOB? HOW DID YOU GET ON THIS BOAT - TURN OFF THE LIGHTS - AND GET INTO THIS CABIN?
THERE IS NO ANSWER-
SUDDENLY FATS HORGAN'S GUN BREAKS THE SILENCE.
2-25
I GOT HIM! STOOP! I GOT THE PHANTOM!
ALL YOU GOT WAS THAT HAT-RACK, FATS! HE'S GONE!
AND HE TOOK THE PALMER DAME WITH HIM!
QUICK! ROUND UP THE BOYS! NEITHER OF THEM CAN GET OFF THIS BOAT ALIVE!


ON BOARD S.S. TROTTER FATS HORGAN FRANTICALLY DIRECTS HIS MEN TO SEARCH FOR THE MYSTERIOUS PHANTOM AND DIANA PALMER
SPIKE, BUTCH! TELL THE BOYS. SEARCH THE BOAT FOR THEM TWO. LET 'EM HAVE IT—AND DON'T STOP TO ASK QUESTIONS.
WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND THAT. TELL ME TWO THINGS. ARE THESE DECKS STEEL? DOES THAT FUNNEL BELOW LEAD TO THE ENGINE-ROOM?
—— AND HIGH ABOVE DECK, IN THE LOFTY CROWSNEST.
YES, TO BOTH QUESTIONS, BUT YOU CAN'T GO DOWN THERE! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
YOU'RE SAFE HERE. I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU
AND THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY DIVES HEADLONG INTO THE AIR!


LEAVING DIANA SAFELY ALOFT IN THE CROWSNEST, THE PHANTOM DIVES HEADLONG INTO THE AIR.
SPIKE! LOOK!
MY-- GOSH THERE HE IS! THE PHANTOM!
FROM ALL PARTS OF THE SHIP, FATS HORGAN'S MEN SPOT THE RAPIDLY MOVING FORM—
2-27
—AS IT SUDDENLY ENDS ITS DARING DIVE INTO A VENTILATOR FUNNEL!

HE WENT DOWN THERE! HE'S BELOW DECK! GUARD ALL THE HATCHES. WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED THIS TIME!

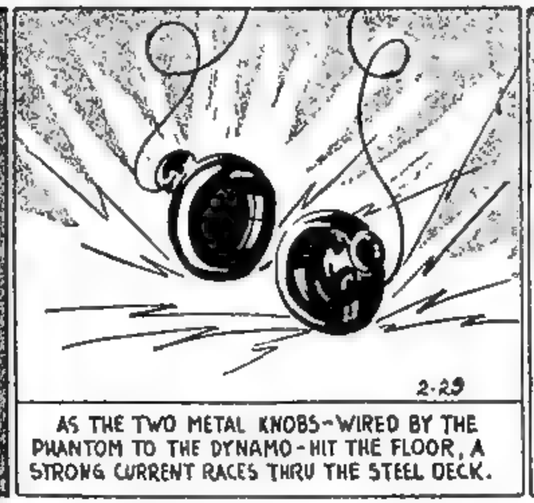
SORRY-I'M IN A HURRY
BELOW DECKS, THE PHANTOM MOVES QUICKLY.

POSITIVE-NEGATIVE. RIGHT. STEEL DECKS. IF THIS DOESN'T WORK—
THEN KNEELING BEFORE THE SHIP'S DYNAMO HE BEGINS TO WORK SWIFTLY.
2-28

WE GOT HIM THIS TIME- - COLD TURKEY.
TOMORROW "SURPRISED"

THE PHANTOM! DON'T MOVE -AND SAY YOUR PRAYERS! I GOT YOU!

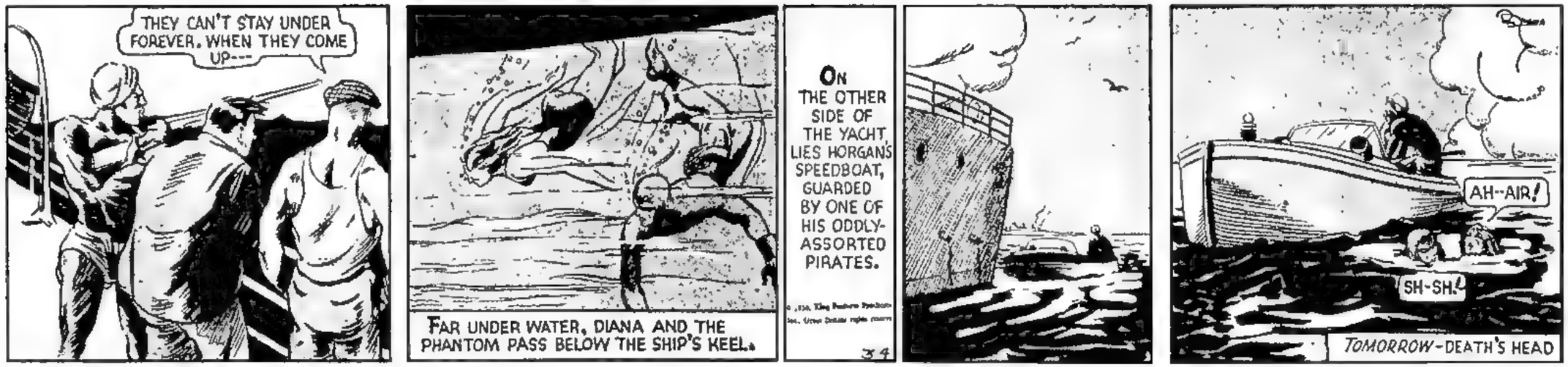
DROP WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT THERE!
O.K., MORGAN. YOU ASKED FOR IT.

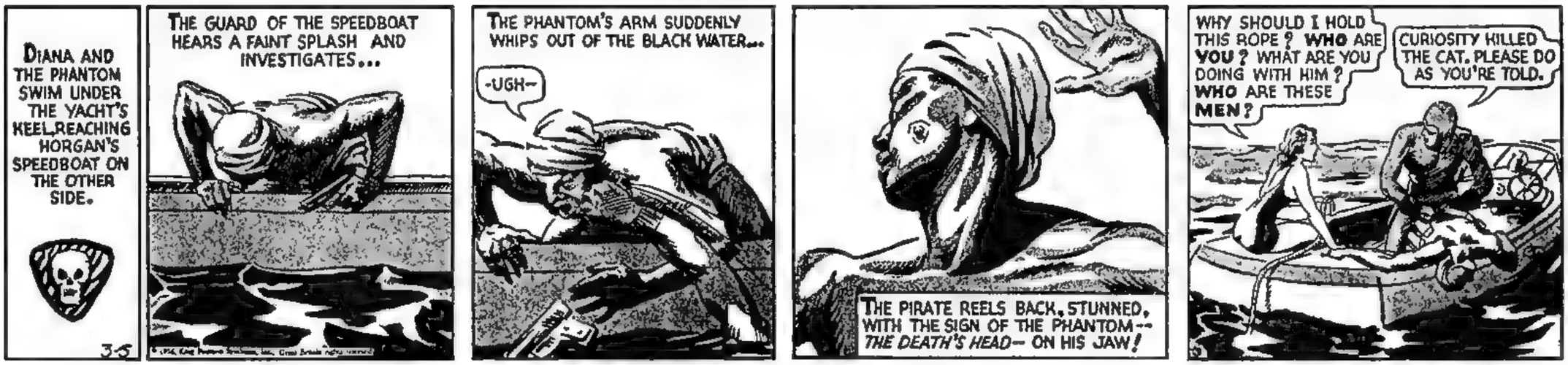

2-29
AS THE TWO METAL KNOBS-WIRED BY THE PHANTOM TO THE DYNAMO-HIT THE FLOOR, A STRONG CURRENT RACES THRU THE STEEL DECK.

E-E-YOW!

AS FATS HORGAN AND HIS MEN ATTEMPT TO STEAL DIANA PALMER'S 300-POUND CARGO OF PRICELESS AMBERGRIS, THE MYSTERIOUS AND UNKNOWN PHANTOM BOARDS THE SHIP. HE DIVERTS ELECTRIC CURRENT FROM THE DYNAMO....
THE ELECTRIC CURRENT RACES THROUGH THE STEEL DECKS, "FREEZING" RIGIDLY EVERY MAN ON DECK.
3-2
RUBBER-SHOD, THE PHANTOM MOVES SWIFTLY BY THE HELPLESS PIRATES....
WHAT DID YOU DO? THEY'RE ALL STANDING LIKE STATUES DOWN THERE!
WE'LL HAVE TO GET OFF THIS BOAT BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THAT CURRENT.
...AND CLIMBS TO THE LOFTY CROW'S-NEST WHERE HE HAS LEFT THE LOVELY DIANA.
Tomorrow— SOMETHING HAPPENS.

FATS HORGAN MANAGES TO TOSS HIS GUN AGAINST THE DYNAMO, SHORT-CIRCUITING IT AND CUTTING OFF THE CURRENT THAT HAS HELD HIM RIGIDLY IN PLACE.
WHEW! THAT STOPS THAT!
COME ON YOU! WE GOTTA WORK FAST!
3-3
HIGH ABOVE ON A SPAR, THE PHANTOM SEES THAT THE PIRATES ARE FREED FROM THE PARALYZING ELECTRIC CURRENT.
THEY'RE MOVING! SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE CURRENT. CAN YOU DIVE?
LIKE A FISH.
Tomorrow— WHERE DID THEY GO?


THEY CAN'T STAY UNDER FOREVER. WHEN THEY COME UP---
FAR UNDER WATER, DIANA AND THE PHANTOM PASS BELOW THE SHIP'S KEEL.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE YACHT LIES HORGAN'S SPEEDBOAT, GUARDED BY ONE OF HIS ODDLY-ASSORTED PIRATES.
34
AH--AIR!
SH-SH!
TOMORROW-DEATH'S HEAD


DIANA AND THE PHANTOM SWIM UNDER THE YACHT'S KEEL, REACHING HORGAN'S SPEEDBOAT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
35
THE GUARD OF THE SPEEDBOAT HEARS A FAINT SPLASH AND INVESTIGATES...
THE PHANTOM'S ARM SUDDENLY WHIPS OUT OF THE BLACK WATER...
-UGH-
THE PIRATE REELS BACK, STUNNED, WITH THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM-- THE DEATH'S HEAD-- ON HIS JAW!
WHY SHOULD I HOLD THIS ROPE? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HIM? WHO ARE THESE MEN?
CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT. PLEASE DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.

THE PHANTOM MAKES HIS ESCAPE WITH DIANA FROM HORGAN'S PIRATES, USING HORGAN'S OWN SPEEDBOAT. 3-6

WHY--THERE GOES OUR BOAT--IT'S THE PHANTOM --AND THE GIRL! HOW IN---
SAVE IT, FATS. WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET OFF THIS SCOW, PRONTO!

WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHO YOU ARE, AND WHO THOSE MEN WERE AND WHAT THEY WANTED?
THEY WANTED YOU AND YOUR THREE HUNDRED POUNDS OF AMBERGRIS THAT YOU BROUGHT BACK FROM THE SOUTH SEAS.

OH! THE AMBERGRIS! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT! THEY'LL-- THEY'LL GET IT!
I DON'T THINK THEY WILL. YOU SEE, IT'S TIED TO THE END OF THAT ROPE YOU'RE HOLDING.

YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
IF YOU'D ONLY TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--AND WHO YOU ARE. HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?

LIKE THIS.

BUT--BUT WON'T I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN?
WHO KNOWS, DIANA?

GONE! HE-HE-KNEW MY NAME! WILL I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?
3-7
A TWIST, A SPLASH AND THE PHANTOM DISAPPEARS INTO THE BLACK WATER.

THAT'S THE STORY, BOYS. THOSE MEN, WHOEVER THEY WERE, BOARDED MY SHIP AND TRIED TO STEAL IT'S CARGO. THEN THIS MASKED MAN GOT ME OFF THE BOAT AND SAVED ME.
WHAT WAS THIS VALUABLE CARGO?

I CAN'T REVEAL THAT. BUT PLEASE TELL ME WHO THIS MASKED MAN IS -- THE ONE YOU CALL THE PHANTOM.

THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE POLICE 've BEEN TRYING TO FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION FOR TWO YEARS, MISS PALMER. ONLY A FEW FOLKS LIKE YOU HAVE EVER SEEN HIM.
BUT WHAT HAS HE DONE?

-DON'T KNOW EXACTLY. CAN'T PIN HIM DOWN. DON'T KNOW WHAT GAME HE'S PLAYING. HE'S A LONE WOLF. AND YOU CAN BET WHENEVER THERE'S A BIG MURDER OR ROBBERY, THAT DEATH'S-HEAD OF HIS IS SURE TO BE FLOATING AROUND SOONER OR LATER!
TOMORROW—PRINCE ACHMED SINGH
3-9

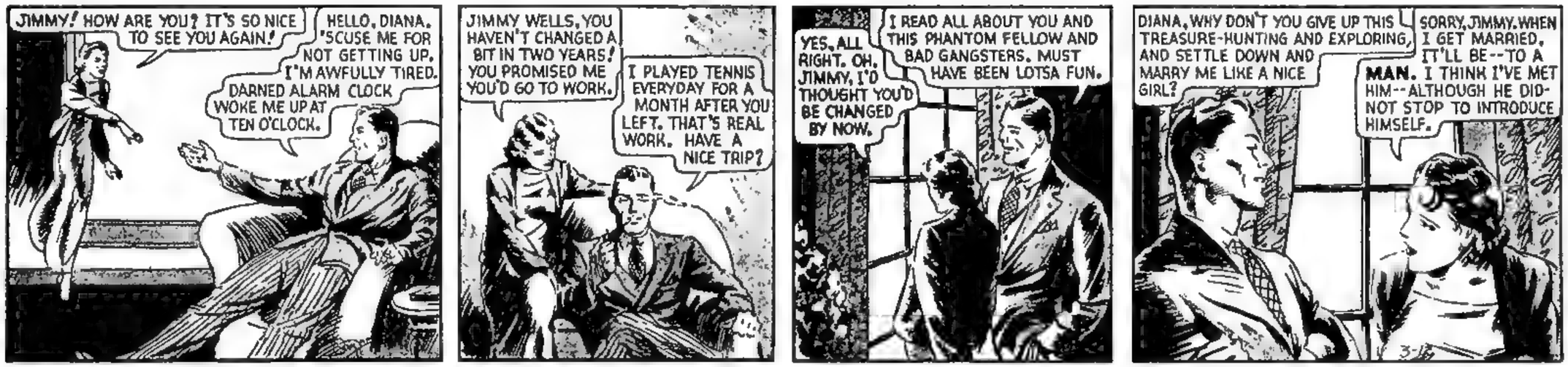
—AND AFTER THAT ELECTRIC CURRENT BUSINESS, THE PHANTOM TOOK THE GIRL, THE AMBERGRIS--AND JUST VAMOOSED.
BAH! YOU BUNGLER! AM I TO BELIEVE THAT ONE MAN COULD OVERCOME TWO DOZEN?

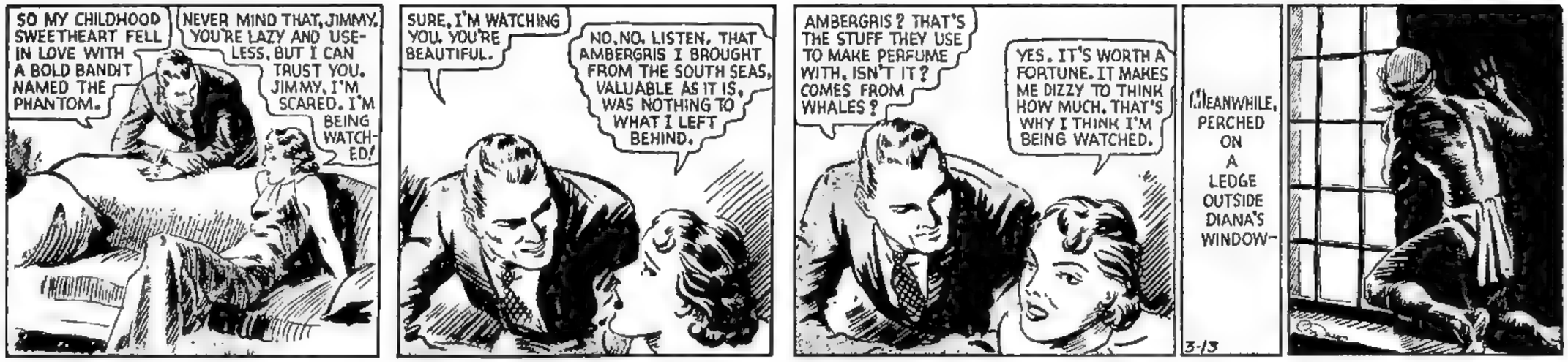
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT, PRINCE ACHMED SINGH. THAT'S THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM. I'D NEVER TAKEN THIS JOB IF I'D KNOWN HE WAS COMIN' IN ON IT.

IDIOT! BECAUSE I TOLD YOU THE AMBERGRIS WAS WORTH A FORTUNE, YOU WENT AFTER IT INSTEAD OF THE GIRL. IT WAS THE GIRL I WANTED! YOU'RE THROUGH!
YEAH? WELL, I QUIT! I AIN'T SNATCHING NO GIRLS, SEE?

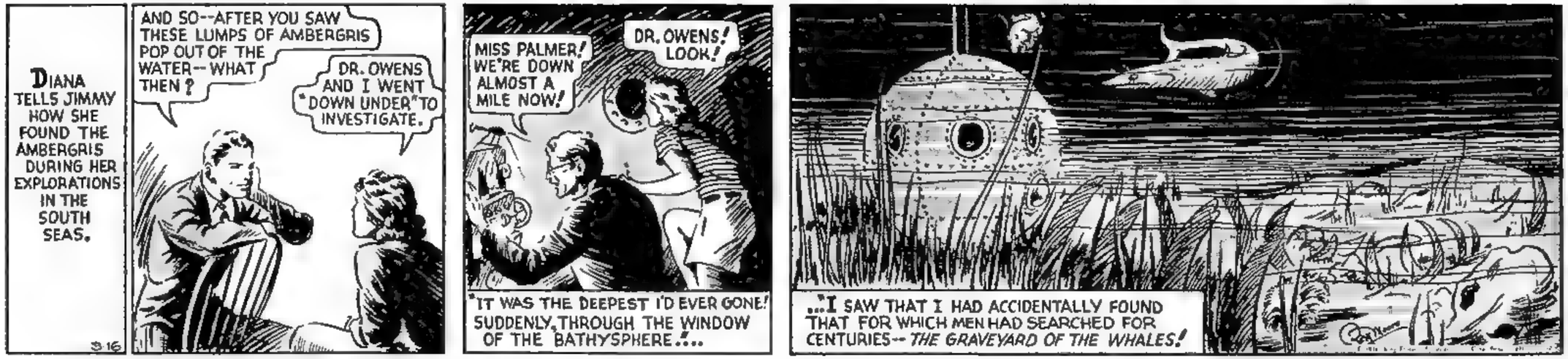
YOU AMERICAN BADMEN-----BAH! I THOUGHT YOU HAD COURAGE. WE OF THE ORIENT HAVE OUR OWN WAY OF GETTING WHAT WE WANT! INSTEAD OF NOISY GUNS--QUIET KNIVES AND ROPES! I'LL GET DIANA PALMER IN MY OWN WAY!
3-10
tomorrow—DIANA & PHYLLIS

DIANA, AFTER TWO YEARS IN THE SOUTH SEAS, YOU ARE WELCOMED HOME BY THE PHANTOM, HIMSELF! IMAGINE!
IT WAS THRILLING, PHYLLIS. HE WAS TALL, STRONG, ABSOLUTELY FEARLESS. AND THE NICEST SMILE!
YOU MEAN YOU ACTUALLY SAW HIS FACE?
HIS EYES WERE MASKED. HE--- OH, I'M TIRED OF TALKING ABOUT IT AFTER ALL THOSE REPORTERS AND THE POLICE. TELL ME WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON HERE AT HOME.
THE USUAL THINGS. I MET THE MOST FASCINATING MAN THE OTHER DAY. PRINCE ACHMED SINGH. YOU'LL MEET HIM AT MY HOUSE THIS WEEK-END.
THAT NAME IS FAMILIAR. BY THE WAY, HOW IS JIMMY?
JIMMY WELLS? JUST AS RICH AND LAZY AND NICE AND GOOD-FOR-NOTHING AS EVER.
POOR JIMMY. BEFORE I LEFT, HE PROMISED HE'D GO TO WORK, BUT I GUESS THE ONLY WORK HE'S DONE IS SLEEP AND EAT.
3-11
tomorrow - JIMMY

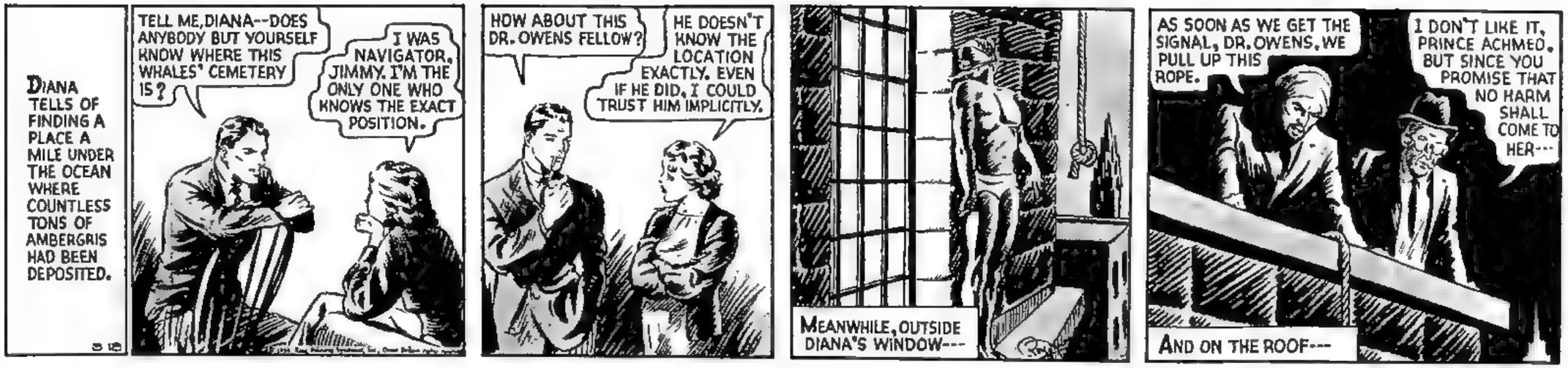

JIMMY! HOW ARE YOU? IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
HELLO, DIANA. 'SCUSE ME FOR NOT GETTING UP. I'M AWFULLY TIRED. DARNED ALARM CLOCK WOKE ME UP AT TEN O'CLOCK.
JIMMY WELLS, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT IN TWO YEARS! YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D GO TO WORK.
I PLAYED TENNIS EVERYDAY FOR A MONTH AFTER YOU LEFT. THAT'S REAL WORK. HAVE A NICE TRIP?
YES, ALL RIGHT. OH, JIMMY, I'D THOUGHT YOU'D BE CHANGED BY NOW.
I READ ALL ABOUT YOU AND THIS PHANTOM FELLOW AND BAD GANGSTERS. MUST HAVE BEEN LOTSA FUN.
DIANA, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP THIS TREASURE-HUNTING AND EXPLORING, AND SETTLE DOWN AND MARRY ME LIKE A NICE GIRL?
SORRY, JIMMY. WHEN I GET MARRIED, IT'LL BE--TO A MAN. I THINK I'VE MET HIM--ALTHOUGH HE DID-NOT STOP TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF.


SO MY CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART FELL IN LOVE WITH A BOLD BANDIT NAMED THE PHANTOM.
NEVER MIND THAT, JIMMY. YOU'RE LAZY AND USELESS. BUT I CAN TRUST YOU. JIMMY, I'M SCARED. I'M BEING WATCHED!
SURE, I'M WATCHING YOU. YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
NO, NO. LISTEN. THAT AMBERGRIS I BROUGHT FROM THE SOUTH SEAS, VALUABLE AS IT IS, WAS NOTHING TO WHAT I LEFT BEHIND.
AMBERGRIS? THAT'S THE STUFF THEY USE TO MAKE PERFUME WITH, ISN'T IT? COMES FROM WHALES?
YES. IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE. IT MAKES ME DIZZY TO THINK HOW MUCH. THAT'S WHY I THINK I'M BEING WATCHED.
MEANWHILE, PERCHED ON A LEDGE OUTSIDE DIANA'S WINDOW—
3-13

UNKNOWN TO DIANA, SHE IS BEING WATCHED BY ONE OF PRINCE ACHMED SINGH'S MEN AS SHE TALKS TO JIMMY WELLS.
YOU WERE STARTING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE AMBERGRIS. DIANA. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH, NOTHING. I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OUT THERE. I'M JUST NERVOUS I GUESS.
YOU KNOW, SINCE DAD DIED, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CARRY ON HIS SCIENTIFIC WORK..... THE STUDY OF DEEP-SEA FISH. ONE DAY, WHILE WE WERE JUST OFF THE COAST OF JAVA....
...'MY ASSISTANT CALLED MY ATTENTION TO SOME STRANGE-LOOKING LUMPS THAT HAD SUDDENLY RISEN TO THE SURFACE!'
LOOK, DIANA. DID YOU SEE THAT?
THAT STUFF? IT JUST POPPED UP OUT OF THE WATER, DIDN'T IT?
'DR. OWENS WAS POSITIVE IT WAS AMBERGRIS, THE BASIC INGREDIENT USED IN PERFUME. WHERE HAD IT COME FROM?' Continued—
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH THESE LUMPS ARE WORTH?
IF YOU'RE SURE IT'S AMBERGRIS--IT'S WORTH --OH--A FORTUNE!
3-14


DIANA TELLS JIMMY HOW SHE FOUND THE AMBERGRIS DURING HER EXPLORATIONS IN THE SOUTH SEAS.
AND SO--AFTER YOU SAW THESE LUMPS OF AMBERGRIS POP OUT OF THE WATER--WHAT THEN?
DR. OWENS AND I WENT "DOWN UNDER" TO INVESTIGATE.
MISS PALMER! WE'RE DOWN ALMOST A MILE NOW!
DR. OWENS! LOOK!
"IT WAS THE DEEPEST I'D EVER GONE! SUDDENLY, THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE BATHYSPHERE...
...I SAW THAT I HAD ACCIDENTALLY FOUND THAT FOR WHICH MEN HAD SEARCHED FOR CENTURIES--THE GRAVEYARD OF THE WHALES!

DIANA'S STORY: WITH HER ASSISTANT, DR. OWENS, SHE WENT ALMOST A MILE UNDER THE OCEAN TO FIND---
...THE GRAVEYARD OF THE WHALES, SOMETHING FOR WHICH MEN HAD SEARCHED FOR CENTURIES!"
DR. OWENS--WHAT'S THAT? NO, OVER FARTHER!
WHY--IT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
"THE OCEAN BED SEEMED COVERED WITH WHAT LOOKED LIKE STONES. OWENS DIRECTED THE LIGHT ON THEM...
...THE LUMPS WERE NOT STONES, BUT AMBERGRIS--COUNTLESS TONS, DEPOSITED THERE THROUGH THE CENTURIES BY DEAD WHALES!"
BUT, DIANA, HOW COME IT HADN'T RISEN TO THE SURFACE?
HELD BY DEEP OCEAN CURRENTS, I THINK. THE PIECES WE HAD, POPPED UP ACCIDENTALLY. IT IS WORTH MILLIONS, JIMMY, MILLIONS!
tomorrow- DR. OWENS


DIANA TELLS OF FINDING A PLACE A MILE UNDER THE OCEAN WHERE COUNTLESS TONS OF AMBERGRIS HAD BEEN DEPOSITED.
TELL ME, DIANA--DOES ANYBODY BUT YOURSELF KNOW WHERE THIS WHALES' CEMETERY IS?
I WAS NAVIGATOR, JIMMY. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE EXACT POSITION.
HOW ABOUT THIS DR. OWENS FELLOW?
HE DOESN'T KNOW THE LOCATION EXACTLY. EVEN IF HE DID, I COULD TRUST HIM IMPLICITLY.
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE DIANA'S WINDOW---
AS SOON AS WE GET THE SIGNAL, DR. OWENS, WE PULL UP THIS ROPE.
I DON'T LIKE IT, PRINCE ACHMED. BUT SINCE YOU PROMISE THAT NO HARM SHALL COME TO HER---
AND ON THE ROOF---

DIANA, I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU WITH ALL THIS AMBERGRIS BUSINESS.
JIMMY, YOU'RE A NICE, USELESS, SPOILED, RICH, LITTLE BOY. HOW CAN YOU HELP?
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT IF ANYONE STARTS TO STICK A KNIFE IN YOU, GIVE ME A RING AND I'LL CALL THE POLICE.
THANKS. GOODBYE, MY BRAVE HERO. I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP NOW.
LATER... OUTSIDE DIANA'S WINDOW...
OWENS, HE'S GOING IN NOW! READY WITH THAT ROPE!
PRINCE ACHMED, IF SHE'S HARMED, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF.
...AND ON THE ROOF...

AS DIANA SLEEPS, PRINCE ACHMED'S THUG ENTERS, A CHLOROFORMED RAG IN HIS HAND!

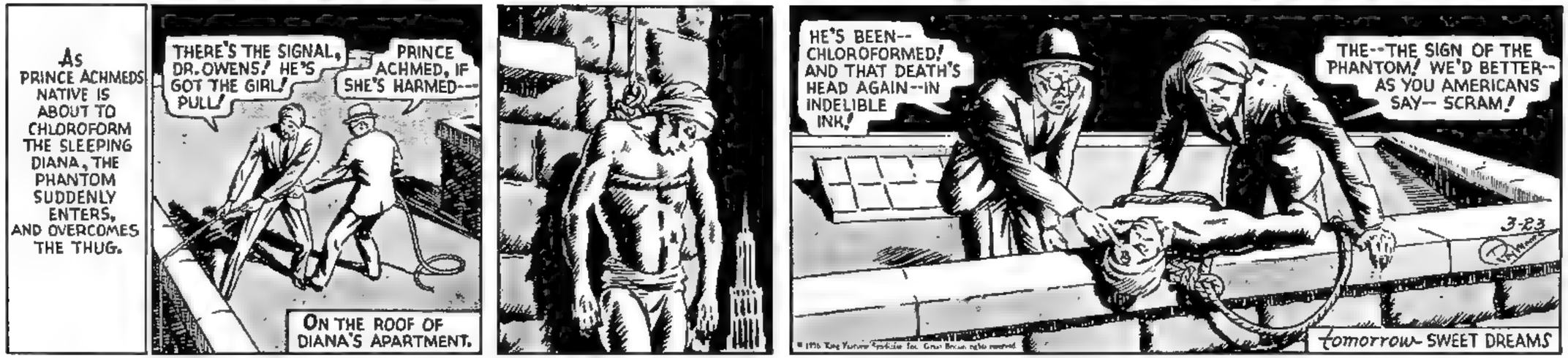
SUDDENLY, SILENTLY, AN ARM OF STEEL ENCIRCLES HIS THROAT....

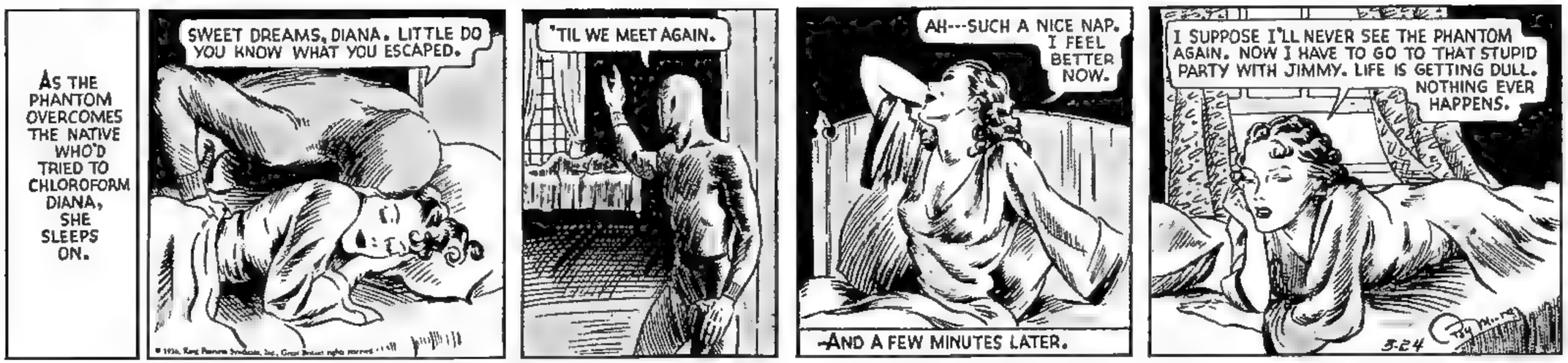
... HALF-STRANGLED, HE STARES IN SPEECHLESS TERROR AT THE DEATH'S HEAD SIGNET RING -- *THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM!*

AS PRINCE ACHMED'S THUG ATTEMPTS TO CHLOROFORM THE SLEEPING DIANA, HE IS HALTED BY THE MYSTERIOUS PHANTOM.
THE PHANTOM SUBDUES THE THUG WITH HIS OWN CHLOROFORMED RAG...

...AND BENDS OVER DIANA, SOFTLY KISSING HER AS SHE SLEEPS.
PLEASANT DREAMS.

BUT PRINCE ACHMED, WHAT CAN BE KEEPING YOUR MAN SO LONG?
DON'T WORRY. BE READY WHEN HE TUGS ON THE ROPE.
MEANWHILE, PRINCE ACHMED AND DR. OWENS WAIT ON THE ROOF ABOVE. *Continued—*


As PRINCE ACHMEDS NATIVE IS ABOUT TO CHLOROFORM THE SLEEPING DIANA, THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY ENTERS, AND OVERCOMES THE THUG.
THERE'S THE SIGNAL, DR. OWENS! HE'S GOT THE GIRL! PULL!
PRINCE ACHMED, IF SHE'S HARMED---
ON THE ROOF OF DIANA'S APARTMENT.
HE'S BEEN-- CHLOROFORMED! AND THAT DEATH'S HEAD AGAIN--IN INDELIBLE INK!
THE--THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM! WE'D BETTER-- AS YOU AMERICANS SAY-- SCRAM!
3-23
tomorrow- SWEET DREAMS


As THE PHANTOM OVERCOMES THE NATIVE WHO'D TRIED TO CHLOROFORM DIANA, SHE SLEEPS ON.
SWEET DREAMS, DIANA. LITTLE DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ESCAPED.
'TIL WE MEET AGAIN.
AH---SUCH A NICE NAP. I FEEL BETTER NOW.
-AND A FEW MINUTES LATER.
I SUPPOSE I'LL NEVER SEE THE PHANTOM AGAIN. NOW I HAVE TO GO TO THAT STUPID PARTY WITH JIMMY. LIFE IS GETTING DULL. NOTHING EVER HAPPENS.
3-24

HOP IN THE ROYAL CHARIOT, DIANA, AND AWAY WE GO.
ANOTHER PARTY! JIMMY, I'M GOING BACK TO THE SOUTH SEAS FOR A LITTLE EXCITEMENT. I'LL GO MAD HERE.

WHY NOT BREAK DOWN AND MARRY ME? I'M RICH, YOUNG, HEALTHY --JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.
PLEASE, JIMMY. YOU'RE A NICE LITTLE PLAYBOY, BUT I'VE GRADUATED FROM THE SANDPILE.

IF YOU DON'T KEEP BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL I'LL GET OUT MY ROLLER-SKATES
I ADMIT I'M NO COMPETITION FOR A MASKED LOTHARIO HAS HE DROPPED IN TO PAY HIS RESPECTS?

PLEASE DON'T LOOK SO BORED, PRINCE ACHMED. MY BEST FRIEND, DIANA PALMER, WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.
AH! I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HER WITH MUCH DELIGHT.
AT THE PARTY WHERE JIMMY AND DIANA ARE HEADED.....

AFTER WE FINISH THIS DANCE, DIANA, WE'LL HAVE SOME TEA.
THIS EXCITEMENT IS KILLING ME, JIMMY.

DIANA, DARLING, MAY I PRESENT PRINCE ACHMED SINGH.
HOW DO YOU DO?
DELIGHTED, CHARMED!

AT LAST I KNOW WHY I CAME TO AMERICA. IT WAS TO MEET YOU.
THAT MAKES ME A PRETTY EXPENSIVE BLIND DATE, PRINCE ACHMED.

DON'T BE LIKE THAT, JIMMY. COME HAVE SOME TEA.
AW, RATS! FIRST TIME I DANCE WITH DIANA IN TWO YEARS AND ALONG COMES THAT PHONY-BALONEY.
Tomorrow LOVELY WHISTLE

CALM DOWN AND DRINK YOUR TEA, JIMMY. DIANA CAN'T DANCE WITH A PRINCE EVERY-DAY.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO OUT IN THE GARDEN WITH HIM, DID SHE?

I MAY DROP IN ON YOU SOMETIME IN JAVA, PRINCE ACHMED. I LIKE THAT PART OF THE WORLD.
WHEN YOU DO, THE ISLAND IS YOURS.

WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE WHISTLING? IT'S LOVELY.
A LITTLE SONG I LEARNED AS A CHILD.

WHISTLE SIGNAL!
SH!—BE READY!

--OH--

DO AS I DIRECTED. I'LL FOLLOW SOON.
YES, EXCELLENCY.

WHERE'S DIANA?
IN THE HOUSE, I SUPPOSE, MR. WELLS. SHE JUST LEFT ME.

THAT'S FUNNY. I DIDN'T SEE HER COME IN.
ONE WOULD NEED A THOUSAND EYES TO KEEP TRACK OF A WOMAN, MY YOUNG FRIEND.

JIMMY WELLS LEARNS THAT DIANA IS GONE. PRINCE ACHMED, WHOSE MEN HAVE KIDNAPED HER, PRETENDS HE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE SHE IS.
3 30
SHE'S NOT IN THE HOUSE. HER CAR IS GONE! YOU WERE WITH HER LAST, ACHMED.
IN MY COUNTRY, I AM KNOWN AS PRINCE ACHMED, MY FRIEND.
NOT SO FAST, YOU SNAKE! WHAT HAPPENED TO DIANA?
MY DEAR BOY, IT'S SO SIMPLE. SHE TIRED OF BEING WITH YOU AND DROVE BACK HOME--TO AWAIT ME.
THAT'S A LIE! SHE WOULDN'T DO THAT TO ME!
WELL, FIGURE IT OUT YOURSELF. WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE? YOU DON'T THINK I KIDNAPPED THE YOUNG LADY, DO YOU?

NOT SO FAST, ACHMED. DIANA WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING ME.
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT. LET GO OF MY ARM!
GOOD WORK, WONG. THIS YOUNG IDIOT IRRITATES ME.
UGH!
JIMMY, WHAT HAPPENED?
AW--NOTHING, PHYLLIS. I JUST --SLIPPED.
3-31
WHERE'S DIANA?
GONE HOME, I GUESS. DITCHED ME FOR THAT PHONY PRINCE. LEND ME YOUR CAR, PHYLLIS. I'M GOING HOME AND FORGET ABOUT HER.

YOU HAVE HER INSIDE, EH? GOOD WORK. DID SHE PUT UP MUCH OF A STRUGGLE?
LIKE A SHE-TIGER, EXCELLENCY. BUT SHE IS TIED SAFELY.

PRINCE ACHMED! THEN IT WAS YOUR MEN WHO--
YOUR CLEVERNESS AMAZES ME, MISS PALMER.
41

NOW, DIANA, I WON'T WASTE WORDS. NO ONE SUSPECTS YOU'RE HERE. YOU DISCOVERED A DEPOSIT OF AMBERGRIS IN THE SOUTH SEAS AND--
SO THAT'S IT! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS. SOMEONE WILL COME. JIMMY OR--

YOUR TEA-HOUND FRIEND, JIMMY, THINKS YOU "DITCHED" HIM FOR ME. HE THINKS YOU WENT HOME, ALL BY YOURSELF.
I SEE. YOU'VE DONE PRETTY WELL SO FAR. NOW WHAT? I'LL STAY HERE 'TIL DOOMSDAY BEFORE I TELL YOU ANYTHING!

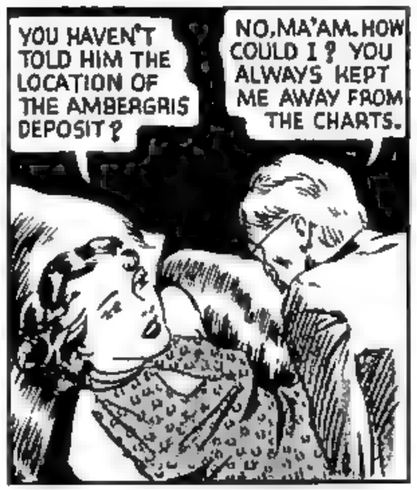
AMBERGRIS? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
NO? I SUPPOSE YOUR ASSISTANT, DR. OWENS, WHO WENT DOWN IN THE BATHYSPHERE WITH YOU. COULDN'T BE WRONG, COULD HE?

OWENS? BUT-- WELL, WHAT OF OWENS? HE'S IN CALIFORNIA.
REALLY? PARDON ME, JUST A MOMENT.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER, AFTER WHAT I'VE DONE. WHY TIE MY HANDS?
JUST A TRICK, OWENS. IF SHE THINKS YOU'RE MY PRISONER, SHE MAY BE MORE READY TO TALK.

ACHMED, I NEEDED THE MONEY WHEN YOU OFFERED IT. BUT I'VE BETRAYED HER ENOUGH. I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS.
A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT, DOCTOR. YOU'RE IN NOW AND YOU'D BETTER STAY IN-- OR YOUR HANDS WILL STAY TIED.
42

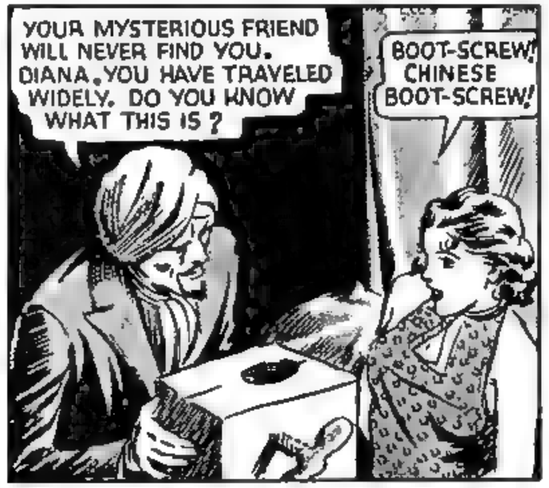
DR. OWENS!
YES, MA'AM. SEEMS LIKE HE'S GOT BOTH OF US. HE--HE GOT ME JUST AFTER I LEFT THE BOAT.


YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM THE LOCATION OF THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT?
NO, MA'AM. HOW COULD I? YOU ALWAYS KEPT ME AWAY FROM THE CHARTS.

NOW YOU'LL BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT I KNOW ABOUT THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT.
YOU KNOW NOW ALL YOU'LL EVER KNOW, ACHMED.
AFTER OWENS IS GONE.... 4-3

BEWARE, MISS PALMER. I DON'T LIKE TO HURT YOU, BUT I HAVE WAYS OF LOOSENING TONGUES!
NOT THIS LITTLE TONGUE!
TOMORROW
THE CHINESE TOUCH

DIANA, I GIVE YOU A LAST CHANCE. WILL YOU TELL ME THE LOCATION OF THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT--OF THE GRAVEYARD OF WHALES?
NO! NO! SOMEONE--SOMEONE--THE PHANTOM--WILL FIND ME!

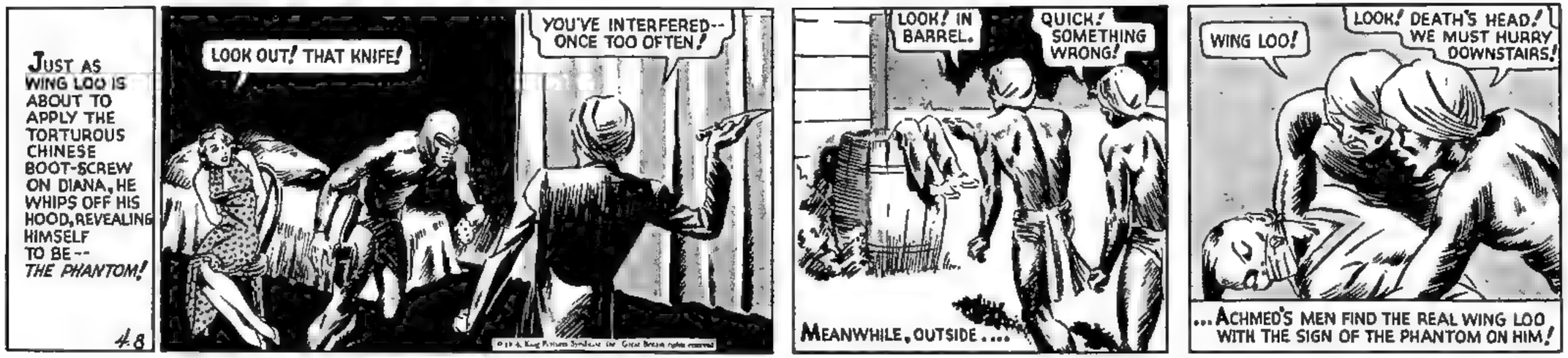

YOUR MYSTERIOUS FRIEND WILL NEVER FIND YOU. DIANA, YOU HAVE TRAVELED WIDELY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
BOOT-SCREW! CHINESE BOOT-SCREW!

BARBARIC TORTURE! YOU WOULDN'T, ACHMED, YOU WOULDN'T!
NOT I, DIANA. I HAVE A SPECIALIST FOR SUCH THINGS. HIS NAME IS WING LOO.
4-4

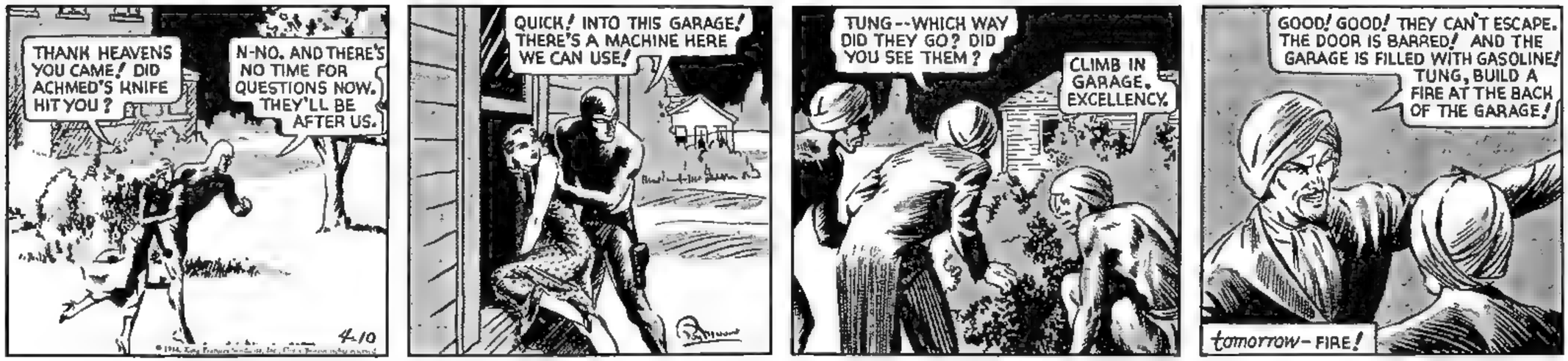
IN ANSWER TO ACHMED'S GONG, A GRIM, AWESOME FIGURE ENTERS!

WHEN DIANA REFUSES TO TELL PRINCE ACHMED THE LOCATION OF THE PRICELESS AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT, ACHMED SUMMONS WING LOO, HIS TORTURER.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DIANA. THIS CHINESE BOOT-SCREW IS VERY BARBARIC-- BUT VERY EFFECTIVE!
ACHMED-- YOU WOULDN'T DARE!
NO? YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL. WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE-- AMBERGRIS--OR WING LOO?
I'LL NEVER TELL YOU, ACHMED!
SHAME TO RUIN SUCH A PRETTY FOOT. TAKE OFF HER SHOE AND GO TO WORK, WING LOO!
tomorrow--WING LOO GOES TO WORK!

AT PRINCE ACHMED'S DIRECTION, HIS TORTURER, WING LOO, MAKES READY TO APPLY THE TORTUROUS CHINESE BOOT-SCREW.
NO--NO-- DON'T TOUCH ME!
HURRY IT UP, WING LOO! GET THAT SHOE OFF AND PUT HER FOOT IN THE BOOT-SCREW!
WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?
WHAT? THAT VOICE! YOU'RE NOT--
THE PHANTOM!
I LEFT YOUR WING LOO IN A BARREL UPSTAIRS, ACHMED!
YOU!
TOMORROW - THE KNIFE


JUST AS WING LOO IS ABOUT TO APPLY THE TORTUROUS CHINESE BOOT-SCREW ON DIANA, HE WHIPS OFF HIS HOOD, REVEALING HIMSELF TO BE-- THE PHANTOM!
48
LOOK OUT! THAT KNIFE!
YOU'VE INTERFERED-- ONCE TOO OFTEN!
LOOK! IN BARREL.
QUICK! SOMETHING WRONG!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE....
WING LOO!
LOOK! DEATH'S HEAD! WE MUST HURRY DOWNSTAIRS!
...ACHMED'S MEN FIND THE REAL WING LOO WITH THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM ON HIM!

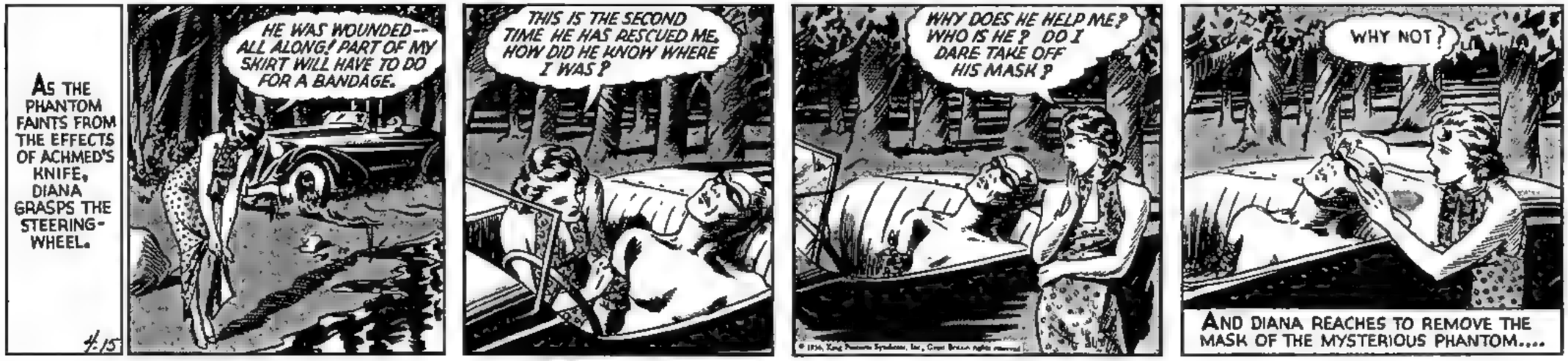
FINDING THE REAL WING LOO TIED IN A BARREL, PRINCE ACHMED'S MEN RUSH DOWN-STAIRS...
49
WING LOO SUPPOSED TO BE DOWN HERE WITH HIS EXCELLENCY --AND THE GIRL PRISONER.
HURRY!
EXCELLENCY!
WE FOUND WING LOO IN---
--IN A BARREL. YES, I KNOW. OU--MY JAW! HOW HE HIT ME! BUT MY KNIFE GOT HIM!
HIT YOU? WHO, EXCELLENCY? WHERE IS GIRL?
WITH THE PHANTOM! QUICK! THEY WENT THROUGH THE WINDOW! THEY CAN'T GET FAR. HE'S WOUNDED! AND WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM --!
TOMORROW--THE GARAGE


THANK HEAVENS YOU CAME! DID ACHMED'S KNIFE HIT YOU?
N-NO. AND THERE'S NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS NOW. THEY'LL BE AFTER US.
4-10
QUICK! INTO THIS GARAGE! THERE'S A MACHINE HERE WE CAN USE!
TUNG--WHICH WAY DID THEY GO? DID YOU SEE THEM?
CLIMB IN GARAGE, EXCELLENCY.
GOOD! GOOD! THEY CAN'T ESCAPE. THE DOOR IS BARRED! AND THE GARAGE IS FILLED WITH GASOLINE! TUNG, BUILD A FIRE AT THE BACK OF THE GARAGE!
tomorrow- FIRE!

UNKNOWN TO DIANA THE PHANTOM HAS BEEN WOUNDED BY ACHMED'S KNIFE.
4-11
THIS--DOOR IS LOCKED--FROM THE OUTSIDE!
I SMELL SMOKE!
OUTSIDE, ONE OF ACHMED'S MEN BUILDS A RAGING BON-FIRE!
THAT GARAGE IS FILLED WITH GASOLINE! THAT MEANS--EXPLOSION! WE'LL EITHER SMOKE THEM OUT--OR BLOW THEM OUT!
CONTINUED-

AS DIANA AND THE PHANTOM HIDE IN ACHMED'S GARAGE, PRINCE ACHMED'S MEN SET THE BUILDING ON FIRE!
THEY'LL HAVE TO COME OUT THROUGH THAT WINDOW. THE GARAGE DOOR IS LOCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE!
BE READY! THEY CAN'T STAY MUCH LONGER! THEY KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF THAT FIRE REACHES THE GASOLINE!
4-13
THERE IS A SUDDEN CRASH AS DIANA AND THE PHANTOM SMASH THROUGH THE LOCKED DOORS!

AS PRINCE ACHMED'S GARAGE BURNS, DIANA AND THE PHANTOM CRASH THROUGH THE LOCKED DOORS!
AFTER THEM! NO--WAIT. UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, I THINK THEY'LL BE BACK SOON; AND WE'LL BE READY FOR THEM WHEN THEY RETURN
WELL--THAT'S THAT! ACHMED'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST TO PUT OUT THAT FIRE BEFORE HIS GARAGE BLOWS UP!
WHY--YOU'RE HURT! DID ACHMED'S KNIFE HIT---
YES, ACHMED WASN'T FOOLING. I'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD. I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO PASS OUT, BUT HERE GOES....
4-14
DIANA LUNGES FOR THE STEERING-WHEEL OF THE SPEEDING CAR...


AS THE PHANTOM FAINTS FROM THE EFFECTS OF ACHMED'S KNIFE, DIANA GRASPS THE STEERING-WHEEL.
4-15
HE WAS WOUNDED-- ALL ALONG! PART OF MY SHIRT WILL HAVE TO DO FOR A BANDAGE.
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME HE HAS RESCUED ME. HOW DID HE KNOW WHERE I WAS?
WHY DOES HE HELP ME? WHO IS HE? DO I DARE TAKE OFF HIS MASK?
WHY NOT?
AND DIANA REACHES TO REMOVE THE MASK OF THE MYSTERIOUS PHANTOM....

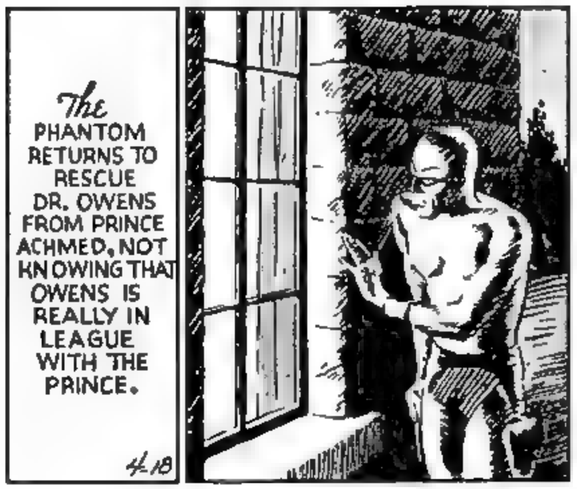
CURIOUS ABOUT HER MYSTERIOUS RESCUER, DIANA REACHES TO TAKE OFF THE MASK OF THE PHANTOM-- WHO LIES UNCONSCIOUS.
4-16
OH--I THOUGHT--
THAT I WAS UNCONSCIOUS? I WAS. I ONCE TOLD YOU THAT CURIOSITY KILLED A CAT.
I'M--I'M SORRY, BUT WON'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHO YOU ARE--AND WHY YOU'RE HELPING ME?
AS LONG AS I HELP YOU, WHY BOTHER ABOUT WHO I AM?
WELL--I FEEL BETTER NOW. YOU DRIVE BACK TO THE CITY....
AND LEAVE YOU AGAIN? OH--I ALMOST FORGOT! DR. OWENS! HE'S STILL BACK THERE!
SO SHE GOT AWAY, ACHMED. WELL, SOMEHOW, I'M GLAD.
YOU SOFT-HEARTED FOOL! SHE THINKS YOU'RE MY CAPTIVE. I THINK THAT'LL BRING HER BACK!
MEANWHILE, BACK AT PRINCE ACHMED'S HOUSE...

YOU SAY ACHMED STILL HOLDS DR. OWENS? WHO IS HE?
OWENS IS MY ASSISTANT. HE WAS WITH ME WHEN I DISCOVERED THE AMBERGRIS. PRINCE ACHMED KIDNAPED HIM RIGHT OFF THE BOAT!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF DR. OWENS. YOU DRIVE BACK TO THE CITY. KEEP THIS IN CASE YOU NEED IT.
NO, YOU CAN'T, ALONE! YOU'RE TOO WEAK FROM THAT WOUND! I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

DO--AS--YOU'RE TOLD.
4-17

I--SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM GO ALONE! I CAN'T GET THE POLICE. THEY MIGHT WANT HIM--TOO! I'M GOING BACK!


The PHANTOM RETURNS TO RESCUE DR. OWENS FROM PRINCE ACHMED, NOT KNOWING THAT OWENS IS REALLY IN LEAGUE WITH THE PRINCE.
4-18

YES, EXCELLENCY --WE HAVE SEEN HIM.
SEE, OWENS. I WAS RIGHT. HE'S COME BACK FOR YOU. BUT WE'RE EXPECTING HIM THIS TIME.

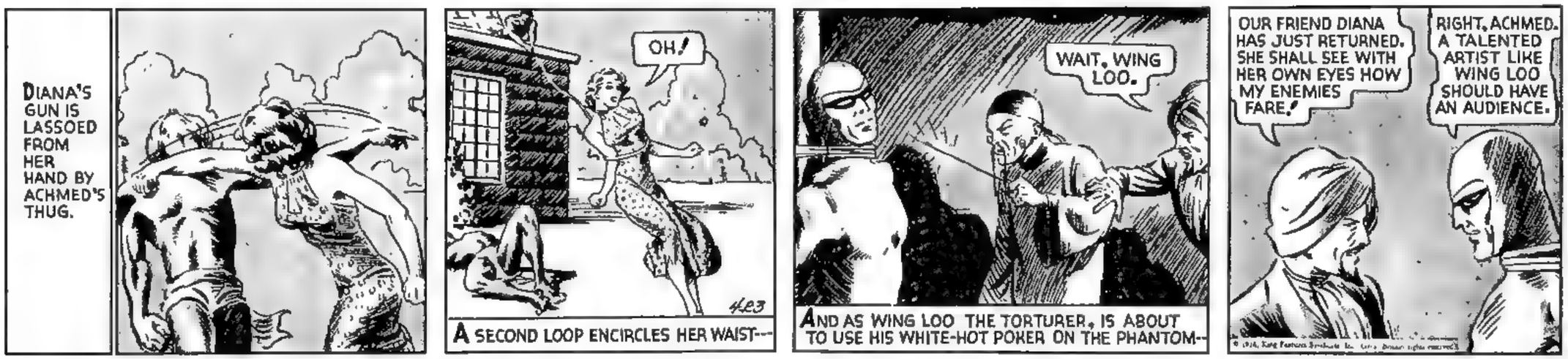
THE PHANTOM IS WATCHED BY HOSTILE EYES...

SUDDENLY--THE THUG'S ROPE DROPS OUT OF THE DARKNESS, LOOPING ABOUT THE PHANTOM'S THROAT!
Continued--

The PHANTOM IS CAPTURED BY PRINCE ACHMED SINGH'S THUGS WHEN HE RETURNS TO RESCUE DR. OWENS.
WELL, MY MYSTERIOUS FRIEND, YOU WEREN'T THANKFUL FOR YOUR LUCKY ESCAPE. YOU HAD TO COME BACK.
I ALWAYS COME BACK, PRINCE ACHMED.
WING LOO IS GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK. HE'S INVENTED SOME OF THE MOST CURIOUS TORTURES YOU CAN IMAGINE-- AND HE'S GOT ONE ALL READY FOR YOU.
HOW NICE OF HIM.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM GO BACK IN HIS WEAKENED CONDITION! IF ONLY I CAN GET THERE IN TIME!
MEANWHILE, DIANA SPEEDS BACK TO PRINCE ACHMED'S.
WHEW! WHAT WAS THAT? A TORNADO?
NAW! A DIZZY DAME TRYIN' TO RACE THE WIND! COME ON --AFTER HER!

THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE YOU HIT WING LOO, LEAVING YOUR DEATH'S HEAD MARK ON HIM. NOW, IT'S HIS TURN.
I SEE. TIT FOR TAT.
WHEN THIS POKER TURNS WHITE WITH HEAT, THEN I, WING LOO, PUT MY MARK ON YOU--AND NOT IN INDELIBLE INK! MY MARK WILL GO DEEPER!
NICE FRIENDS YOU HAVE, PRINCE ACHMED.
JOKE WHILE YOU CAN. WITH YOU OUT OF THE WAY, I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING DIANA BACK.
CRIMMINY! NINETY-SEVEN PER! SHE'S IN A HURRY!
IF WE DON'T STOP HER, THE NORTH POLE WILL!
MEANWHILE, DIANA, FOLLOWED BY TWO STATE POLICE, SPEEDS TOWARDS PRINCE ACHMED'S.

The PHANTOM, WEAK FROM WOUNDS, IS CAPTURED BY PRINCE ACHMED, AND IS ABOUT TO BE TORTURED BY ACHMED'S EXPERT, WING LOO.
THIS POKER IS WHITE HOT! FIRST THE LEFT EYE, THEN THE RIGHT! NO, FIRST THE TONGUE!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
IF ONLY I'M NOT TOO LATE!
DIANA REACHES PRINCE ACHMED'S HOME.....
KEEP YOUR HANDS UP. HIGHER! AND TURN AROUND!
OH!
BUT ACHMED'S DEADLY THUG LASSOES DIANA'S GUN!
4.22


DIANA'S GUN IS LASSOED FROM HER HAND BY ACHMED'S THUG.
OH!
4.23
A SECOND LOOP ENCIRCLES HER WAIST---
WAIT, WING LOO.
AND AS WING LOO THE TORTURER, IS ABOUT TO USE HIS WHITE-HOT POKER ON THE PHANTOM--
OUR FRIEND DIANA HAS JUST RETURNED. SHE SHALL SEE WITH HER OWN EYES HOW MY ENEMIES FARE!
RIGHT, ACHMED. A TALENTED ARTIST LIKE WING LOO SHOULD HAVE AN AUDIENCE.

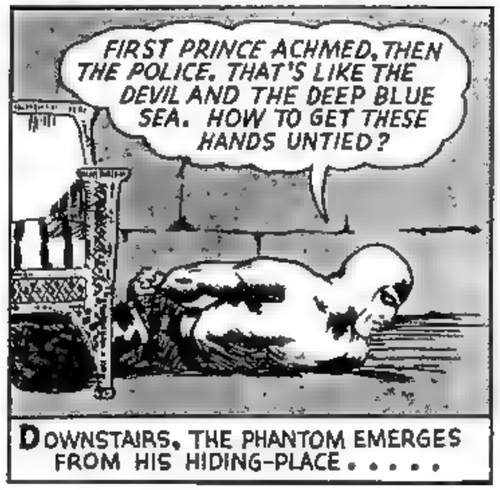
DIANA IS DRAGGED IN TO WITNESS THE TORTURING OF THE PHANTOM BY WING LOO.
4-24
OH--I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU COME BACK--NEVER!
SPILT MILK, DIANA. I'M HERE. YOU'D BETTER CLOSE YOUR EYES.
ONE MORE CHANCE, DIANA! TELL ME THE LOCATION OF YOUR AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT AND I'LL FREE HIM. OTHERWISE--WING LOO GETS HIM!
NO, ACHMED, NO! I'LL TELL YOU!
TELL HIM NOTHING, DIANA. HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED ANY MORE THAN ANY OTHER SNAKE.
WING LOO! GIVE ME THAT POKER! I'LL DO THIS, MYSELF!
NO--NO! YOU WON'T TOUCH HIM! YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST!

AS PRINCE ACHMED IS ABOUT TO USE A WHITE-HOT POKER ON THE PHANTOM, DIANA SPRINGS BEFORE HIM.
4-25
YOUR LIFE IS IMPORTANT TO ME, YOUNG LADY. OUT OF THE WAY!
HERE'S THE CAR, PETE. SHE MUST BE INSIDE THIS HOUSE.
COME ON. THE SPEEDING FINE SHE'LL HAVE TO PAY WILL BALANCE THE STATE BUDGET.
MEANWHILE, THE STATE POLICE WHO HAD FOLLOWED DIANA'S SPEEDING CAR, FINALLY CATCH UP. . . . .
SEE THAT GINK, PETE? SOMETHING DIPPY ABOUT THIS HOUSE.
YEAH, IF THEY DON'T OPEN THIS DOOR, WE'LL BREAK IN!

DIANA, RETURNING TO PRINCE ACHMED'S, IS CAPTURED AND FORCED TO WATCH AS ACHMED STARTS TO TORTURE THE PHANTOM.
4-27
THAT'LL OPEN IT.
SOMETHING PHONY GOIN' ON HERE.
THE POLICE WHO HAD CHASED DIANA'S SPEEDING CAR, OPEN ACHMED'S DOOR.
WING LOO! POLICE! WE TAKE THE GIRL INTO THE SEA CAVERN!
YES, EXCELLENCY.
I REGRET THE INTERRUPTION. I SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE FINISHED THIS LITTLE BUSINESS.
YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY, PRINCE ACHMED.
THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR MANY YEARS. PERHAPS THEY WILL SEND ME A NOTE OF THANKS FOR YOUR CAPTURE. AND NOW --GOODBYE.

AS THE POLICE REACH THE HOUSE, PRINCE ACHMED FLEES WITH DIANA, LEAVING THE PHANTOM TIED UP.
4-28
THIS IS A FUNNY DUMP! NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT.
THAT GIRL MUST BE HERE. HER CAR'S IN FRONT. WE'LL TEACH HER TO SPEED LIKE THAT.
THIS IS THE LAST ROOM IN THE HOUSE. THINK THE GIRL GOT SCARED AND SCRAMMED?
WHY? ALL SHE WAS DOING WAS SPEEDING. WHEW, THAT DRIVE WORE ME OUT. LET'S SIT DOWN AND LIGHT UP.
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT DID YOU SEE THAT BULLETIN FROM THE CHIEF?
OFFERING A BONUS TO THE GUY WHO NABS THE PHANTOM? YEAH. I ALSO HEARD ABOUT A POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW.
AND UNDERNEATH THE COUCH---

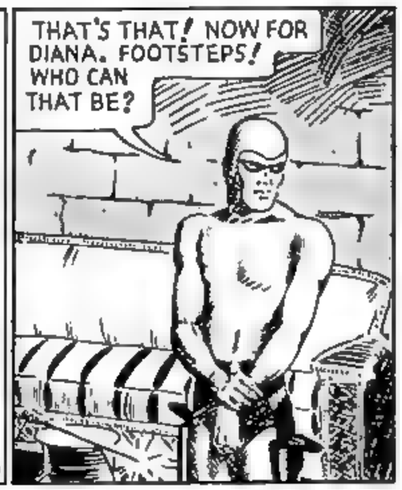
I GUESS THE DAME VAMOSED ALL RIGHT. LED US A WILD GOOSE CHASE.
YEAH? SHE DIDN'T TAKE HER LICENSE NUMBER WITH HER. WE'LL NAB HER YET.

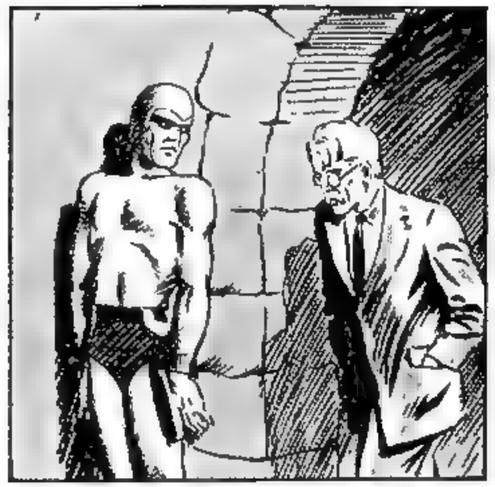

FIRST PRINCE ACHMED, THEN THE POLICE. THAT'S LIKE THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA. HOW TO GET THESE HANDS UNTIED?
DOWNSTAIRS, THE PHANTOM EMERGES FROM HIS HIDING-PLACE.....

WING LOO'S POKER! IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NO GOOD.
4.29

HURRIEDLY, THE PHANTOM USES WING LOO'S TORTURE INSTRUMENT TO FREE HIMSELF!

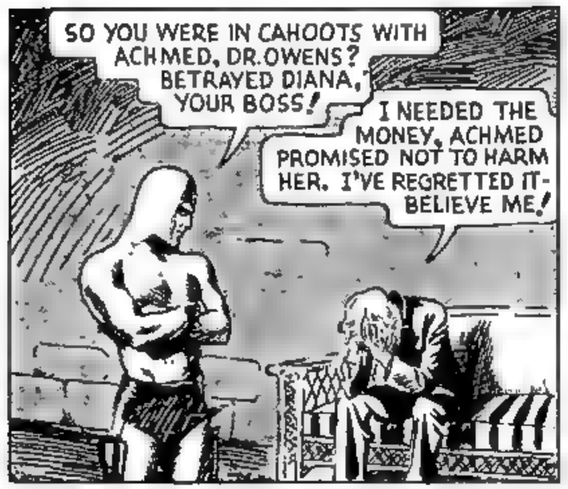
The PHANTOM FREES HIMSELF WITH THE HEATED POKER WITH WHICH WING LOO HAD INTENDED TO TORTURE HIM!
4.30


THAT'S THAT! NOW FOR DIANA. FOOTSTEPS! WHO CAN THAT BE?

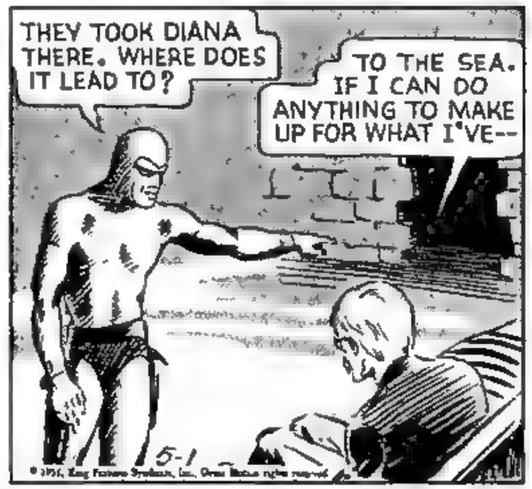


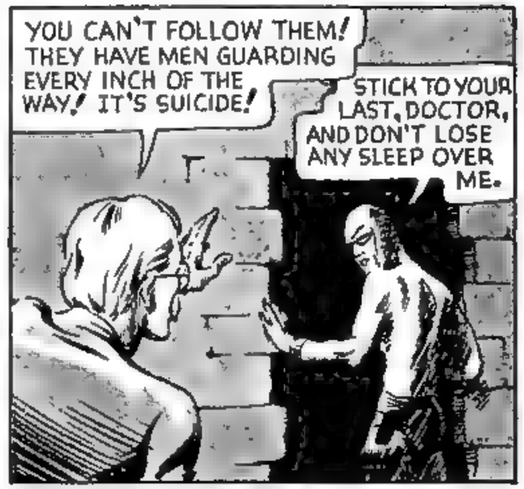
WHO ARE YOU? QUICK!
WHAT IN--! OWENS-- I'M DR. OWENS!

WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
SO YOU'RE DIANA'S LITTLE HELPER, THE MAN I CAME BACK TO RESCUE! WALKING AROUND AS FREE AS AIR! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME QUICK TALKING!
TOMORROW- THE DOCTOR TALKS


SO YOU WERE IN CAHOOTS WITH ACHMED, DR. OWENS? BETRAYED DIANA, YOUR BOSS!
I NEEDED THE MONEY, ACHMED PROMISED NOT TO HARM HER. I'VE REGRETTED IT-BELIEVE ME!

I WAS WITH HER WHEN SHE FOUND THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THE CHART LOCATION. I MET ACHMED. HE WAS CLEVER. BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D TOLD HIM EVERYTHING.


THEY TOOK DIANA THERE. WHERE DOES IT LEAD TO?
TO THE SEA. IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I'VE--
5-1


YOU CAN'T FOLLOW THEM! THEY HAVE MEN GUARDING EVERY INCH OF THE WAY! IT'S SUICIDE!
STICK TO YOUR LAST, DOCTOR, AND DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER ME.

BY NOW THE POLICE ARE CONGRATULATING THEMSELVES UPON THE UNEXPECTED CAPTURE OF THE PHANTOM.
IT WAS--ALL MY FAULT! MINE!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? I WON'T MOVE.
THEN WE'LL CARRY YOU. YOU'RE GOING ON A LONG VOYAGE. DIANA--AS MY GUEST.

HELP! HELP!
SHOUT UNTIL YOUR LUNGS BURST! NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU DOWN HERE!

YOUR MYSTERIOUS FRIEND IS OUT OF MY WAY FOREVER. ONCE YOU GET ON MY YACHT--BUT I WON'T GO INTO THAT NOW!

THE PHANTOM RUSHES INTO THE SEA CAVERN, ON THE TRAIL OF PRINCE ACHMED AND DIANA...

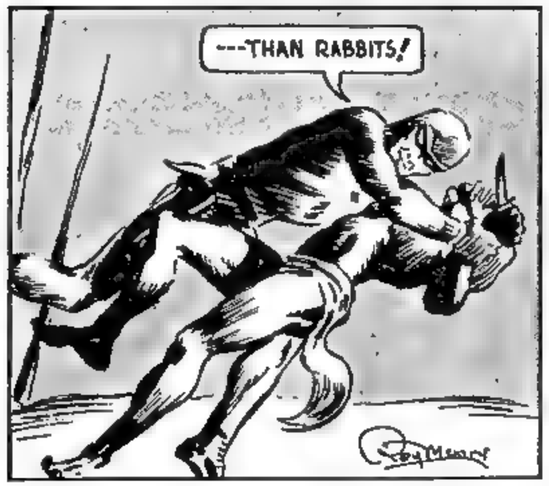
WATCHING IS ACHMED'S THUG WHO HAD ONCE BEFORE CAPTURED THE PHANTOM WITH HIS DEADLY ROPE...

LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE!

AS THE PHANTOM RUSHES THROUGH THE SEA CAVERN, HIS WAY IS BLOCKED BY PRINCE ACHMED'S MEN.

WHERE DO ALL YOU LADS COME FROM?

YOU MULTIPLY FASTER----


---THAN RABBITS!

THE POLICE HAVE NO DOUBT GOT YOUR MYSTERIOUS FRIEND BY NOW, DIANA. TAKE YOUR LAST LOOK AT LAND. THERE'S A LONG SEA VOYAGE AHEAD!
AHEAD, AT THE CAVERN'S MOUTH---

GONE!
THE PHANTOM REACHES THE CAVERN'S MOUTH TOO LATE!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS, ACHMED! THIS IS AMERICA, NOT JAVA!
I THOUGHT KIDNAPING WAS AN OLD CUSTOM, DIANA
5-6

WE'RE GOING ON MY YACHT. OWENS WILL BE THERE TO GIVE US AN APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT-- OF THE WHALES' GRAVEYARD.

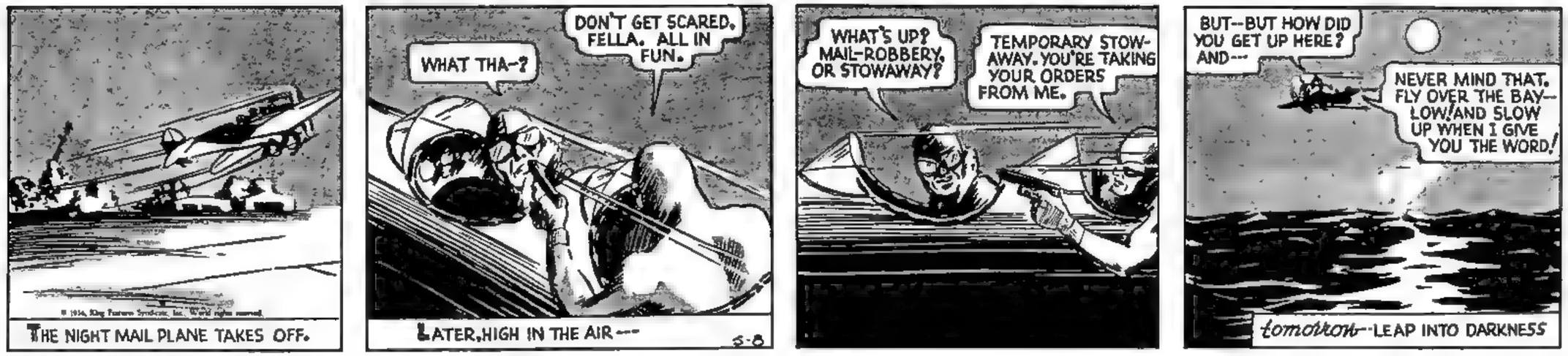
HE CAN'T HELP YOU. I'LL TELL YOU NOTHING!
AFTER THREE MONTHS WITH US, I'M CERTAIN I'LL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE YOU TO GIVE ME THE EXACT LOCATION, MY DEAR CHILD.

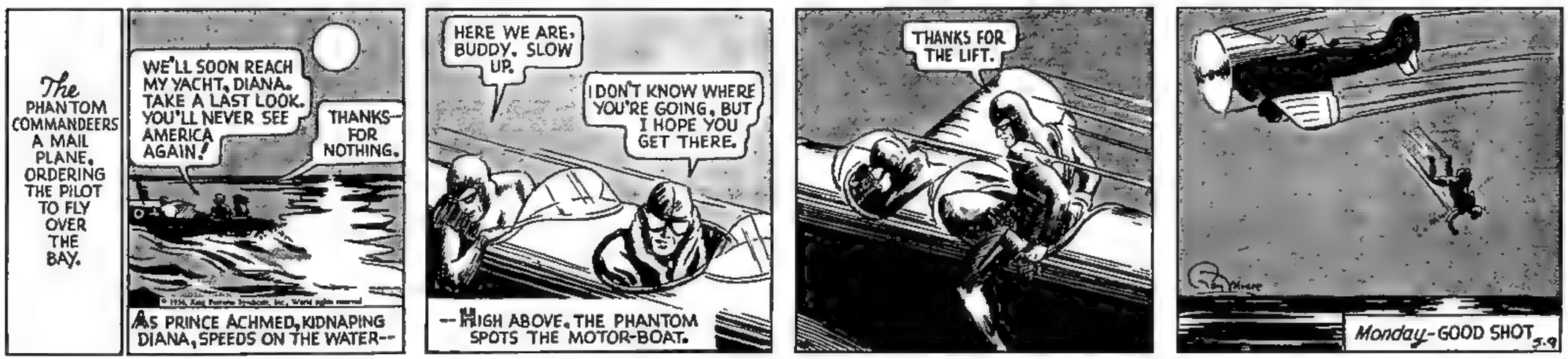
PRINCE ACHMED SPEEDS AWAY WITH DIANA, HEADED FOR HIS YACHT-- AND JAVA!
5-7

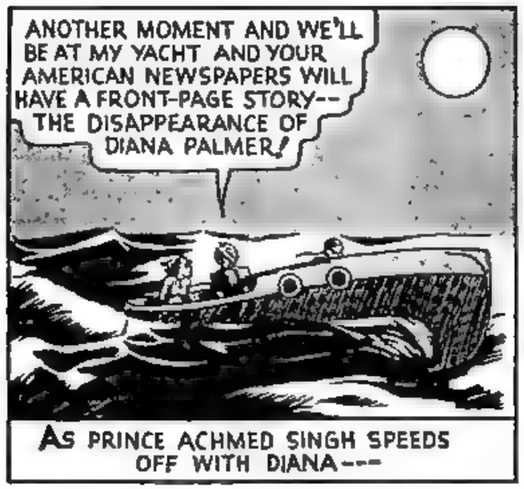
ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION, BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE IT.
BY LAND SPEEDS THE PHANTOM.

NO CEILING, PAT. CLEAR AS A BELL
YEP. I GET GOING IN A FEW MINUTES.
AT A NEARBY AIRPORT...

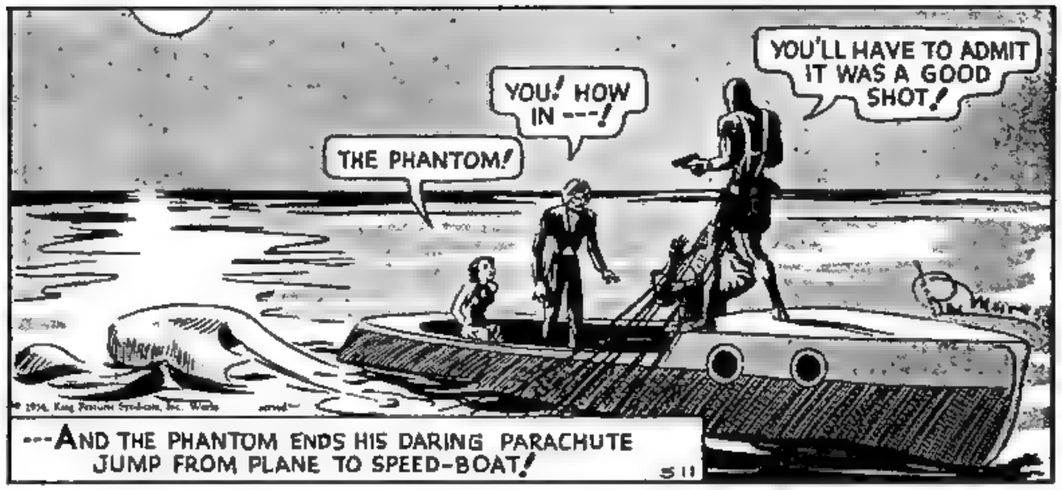
...NO ONE SEES A GRAY-CLAD ARM REACH FOR A PARACHUTE.
tomorrow-TEMPORARY STOWAWAY.


THE NIGHT MAIL PLANE TAKES OFF.
WHAT THA-?
DON'T GET SCARED, FELLA. ALL IN FUN.
LATER, HIGH IN THE AIR---
WHAT'S UP? MAIL-ROBBERY, OR STOWAWAY?
TEMPORARY STOW-AWAY. YOU'RE TAKING YOUR ORDERS FROM ME.
BUT--BUT HOW DID YOU GET UP HERE? AND---
NEVER MIND THAT. FLY OVER THE BAY--LOW! AND SLOW UP WHEN I GIVE YOU THE WORD!
tomorrow--LEAP INTO DARKNESS

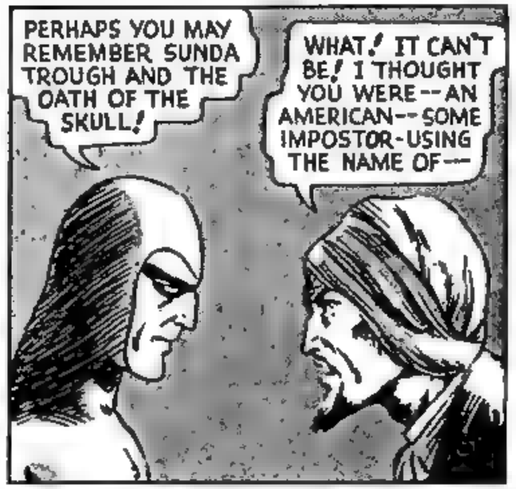

The PHANTOM COMMANDEERS A MAIL PLANE, ORDERING THE PILOT TO FLY OVER THE BAY.
WE'LL SOON REACH MY YACHT, DIANA. TAKE A LAST LOOK. YOU'LL NEVER SEE AMERICA AGAIN!
THANKS-FOR NOTHING.
AS PRINCE ACHMED, KIDNAPING DIANA, SPEEDS ON THE WATER--
HERE WE ARE, BUDDY. SLOW UP.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BUT I HOPE YOU GET THERE.
--HIGH ABOVE, THE PHANTOM SPOTS THE MOTOR-BOAT.
THANKS FOR THE LIFT.
Monday-GOOD SHOT


ANOTHER MOMENT AND WE'LL BE AT MY YACHT AND YOUR AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS WILL HAVE A FRONT-PAGE STORY-- THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DIANA PALMER!
AS PRINCE ACHMED SINGH SPEEDS OFF WITH DIANA---

--- A FIGURE DESCENDS SILENTLY THROUGH THE DARKNESS---


THE PHANTOM!
YOU! HOW IN ---!
YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT IT WAS A GOOD SHOT!
---AND THE PHANTOM ENDS HIS DARING PARACHUTE JUMP FROM PLANE TO SPEED-BOAT!

WE MEET AGAIN, ACHMED SINGH, THE LAST TIME WE MET, YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER ME.
I KNOW SO FEW AMERICAN CROOKS.


PERHAPS YOU MAY REMEMBER SUNDA TROUGH AND THE OATH OF THE SKULL!
WHAT! IT CAN'T BE! I THOUGHT YOU WERE--AN AMERICAN--SOME IMPOSTOR-USING THE NAME OF---

--OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS. ACHMED SINGH!
NO! NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! HAVE MERCY! I DIDN'T KNOW! I SWEAR!

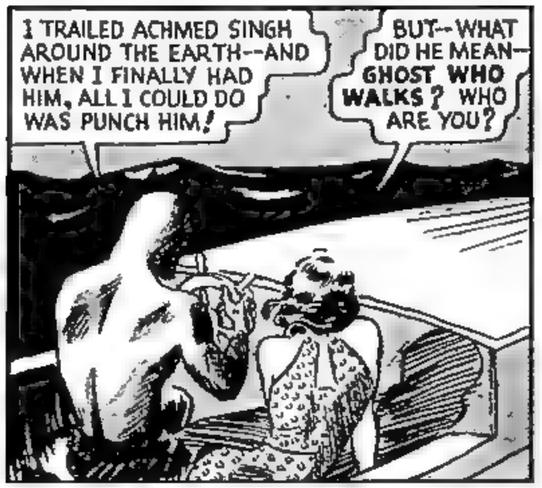
SUNDA TROUGH--OATH OF THE SKULL--GHOST WHO WALKS! ACHMED LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING A STROKE! WHAT ON EARTH DOES IT ALL MEAN?

HAVE MERCY! I--I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN AMERICAN----AN IMPOSTOR--USING THE NAME OF THE PHANTOM!
I'VE FOLLOWED YOU AROUND THE WORLD, ACHMED SINGH. WHEN YOU RETURN TO KRAKATAN, TELL YOUR BROTHERHOOD TWO THINGS
5-13

ONE! THE PHANTOM WARNS ONLY ONCE!
ACHMED'S TORTURER, WING LOO, SPILLS INTO THE ICY WATER---

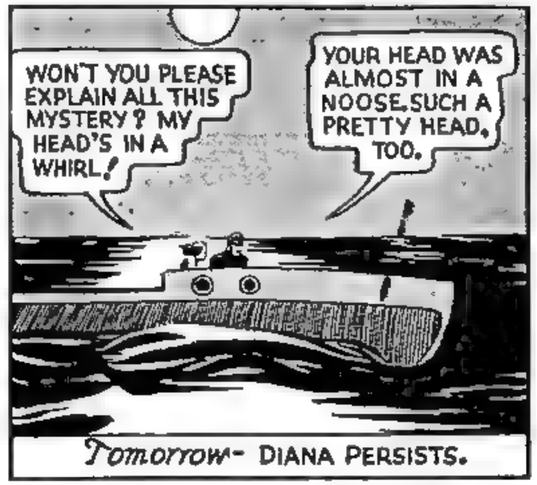
TWO! THAT THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD IS DOOMED!
--TO BE FOLLOWED BY HIS MASTER.

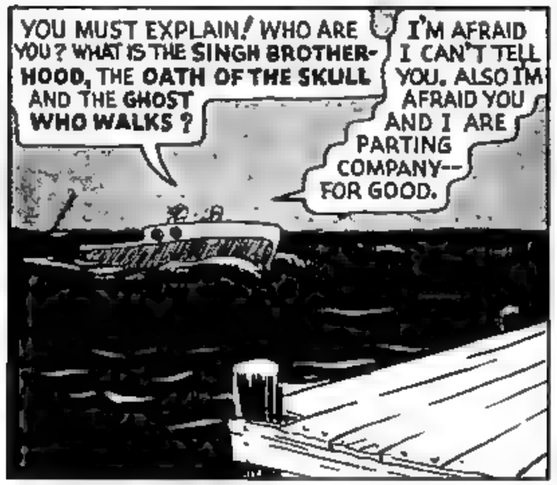
IMAGINE, WING LOO! HE PLAYED WITH US LIKE A CAT WITH MICE! IT WAS REALLY HE--THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
WE HAVE TALES FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN --IF WE LIVE TO SEE THEM, SIRE.
tomorrow- GLOOMY GHOST


I TRAILED ACHMED SINGH AROUND THE EARTH--AND WHEN I FINALLY HAD HIM, ALL I COULD DO WAS PUNCH HIM!
BUT--WHAT DID HE MEAN--GHOST WHO WALKS? WHO ARE YOU?

DIANA, WHEN YOU ACCIDENTALLY FOUND THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT, THE GRAVEYARD OF THE WHALES, YOU BLUNDERED INTO MORE THAN YOU CAN REALIZE!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND
5-14

WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY OATH OF THE SKULL AND THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD?
YOUNG LADY, FOOLS GO WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD! YOU'RE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THAT.

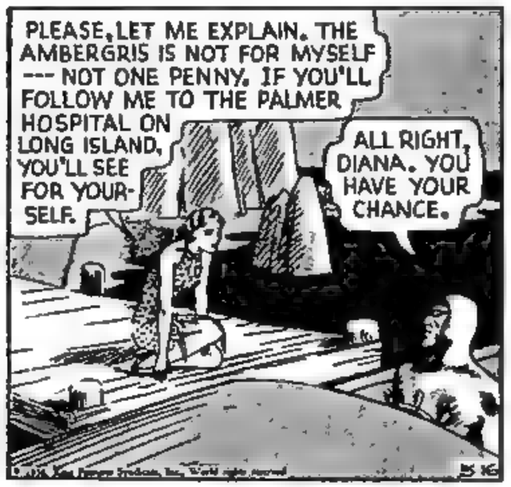

WON'T YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN ALL THIS MYSTERY? MY HEAD'S IN A WHIRL!
YOUR HEAD WAS ALMOST IN A NOOSE, SUCH A PRETTY HEAD, TOO.
Tomorrow- DIANA PERSISTS.


YOU MUST EXPLAIN! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD, THE OATH OF THE SKULL AND THE GHOST WHO WALKS?
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TELL YOU. ALSO I'M AFRAID YOU AND I ARE PARTING COMPANY--FOR GOOD.

BUT--BUT WHY?
DIANA, MY MISSION IS DANGEROUS--AND IMPORTANT. BY CHANCE, YOU BLUNDERED INTO A GIGANTIC PLOT. I WANTED TO HELP YOU.

YOU HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH MONEY. YET YOU INSIST ON ENDANGERING YOUR LIFE AND EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH YOU. JUST FOR A TREASURE YOU DON'T NEED!

YOU'RE PURELY SELFISH ABOUT THIS AMBERGRIS. IF YOU NEEDED IT--BUT --I'M SORRY. I CAN'T HELP YOU.
WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! PLEASE LET ME EXPLAIN!
TOMORROW--DIANA EXPLAINS


PLEASE, LET ME EXPLAIN. THE AMBERGRIS IS NOT FOR MYSELF --- NOT ONE PENNY. IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME TO THE PALMER HOSPITAL ON LONG ISLAND, YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF.
ALL RIGHT, DIANA. YOU HAVE YOUR CHANCE.

AND NOW WILL YOU EXPLAIN THE GHOST WHO WALKS-- THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD-- AND ALL THAT?
NO, I CAN'T. ONE MAN IN NEW YORK CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING. DR. JAMES DODD.

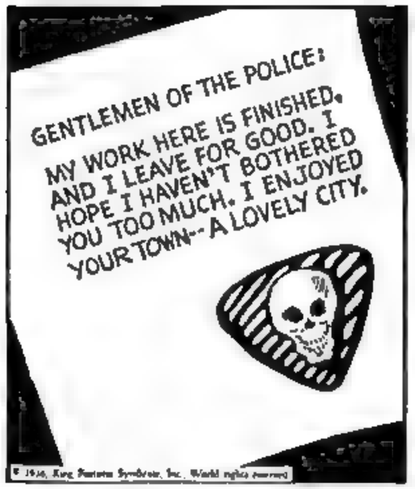
DR. DODD? BUT I KNOW HIM! HE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF DAD'S!
GOOD. GO TO HIM. NOW MY TIME IS SHORT.

BUT--AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE HOSPITAL WITH ME? WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
WHEN YOU WANT ME, I'LL BE THERE. UNTIL THEN, GOOD-BYE.
Monday--DR. JAMES DODD.

DIANA VISITS DR. JAMES DODD, OLD FRIEND OF HER FATHER'S, TO LEARN SOMETHING OF THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE PHANTOM.
I'VE READ ABOUT THE PHANTOM IN THE PAPERS LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD HE SEEMS TO BE A DARING THIEF. OUTSIDE OF THAT MY DEAR, I DON'T--
BUT HE ISN'T DR. DODD!
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM. WHEN HE MENTIONED THE OATH OF THE SKULL, PRINCE ACHMED SINGH ALMOST FAINTED!
WHAT! OATH OF THE SKULL! GO ON!
HE MENTIONED THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD AND ACHMED SAID-- THEN IT'S ACTUALLY YOU--THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
GHOST WHO WALKS! INCREDIBLE! I CAN'T BELIEVE--DIANA, WE MUST SEE THE CHIEF OF POLICE AT ONCE! THIS IS ASTOUNDING!
tomorrow--THE CHIEF TALKS

SO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE PHANTOM, DR. DODD? IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE'VE NEVER SEEN HIM. JUST THAT DEATH'S HEAD INSIGNIA OF HIS.
THEN HE IS-- JUST AN ORDINARY, THOUGH CLEVER CROOK?
FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW. ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED THIS NOTE IN THE MAIL.
GENTLEMEN OF THE POLICE: I'LL BE IN YOUR CITY FOR AN INDEFINITE STAY. MY ACTIONS MAY PUZZLE YOU. I WORK SECRETLY AND ALONE. DON'T WASTE TIME LOOKING FOR ME.
WE FOUND THAT DEATH'S HEAD STAMPED IN DOZENS OF PLACES -- USUALLY WHERE ORIENTALS WERE INVOLVED. THEN TODAY I RECEIVED A SECOND NOTE-- FROM HIM!
Tomorrow-SECOND NOTE

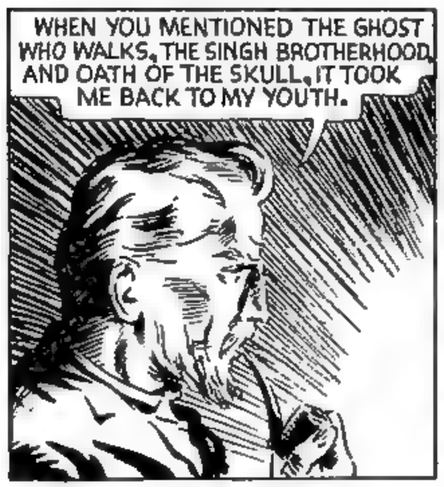
AS I SAID, IN ALMOST TWO YEARS, WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF HIM. JUST TODAY THIS SECOND NOTE CAME TO ME.


GENTLEMEN OF THE POLICE:
MY WORK HERE IS FINISHED. AND I LEAVE FOR GOOD. I HOPE I HAVEN'T BOTHERED YOU TOO MUCH. I ENJOYED YOUR TOWN-- A LOVELY CITY.

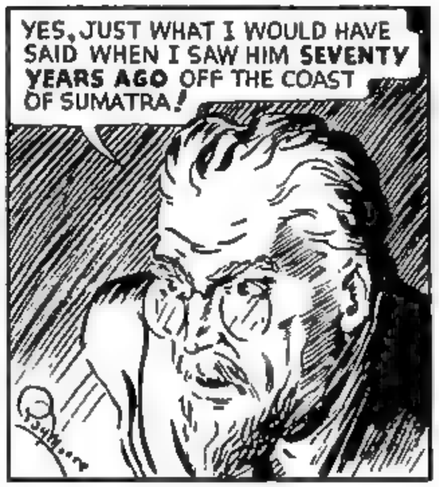
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO TELL--EXCEPT THE HEADACHES HE'S GIVEN ME! I'M HAVING ALL TRAINS AND BOATS WATCHED--BUT I DOUBT IF THAT'LL DO ANY GOOD.
THANK YOU, SIR, AND GOODBYE.

WELL--WHAT DOES IT MEAN, DR. DODD?
IT'S--INCREDIBLE! THEN THIS PHANTOM IS THE GHOST WHO WALKS! YOU'LL THINK I'M INSANE WHEN I TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW OF HIM!
TOMORROW—DODD'S STORY

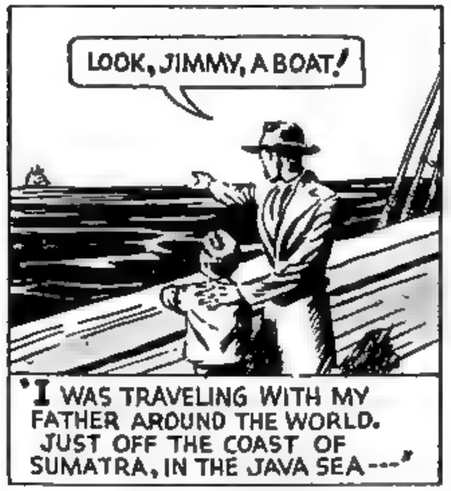
ALL ALONG, DIANA. I THOUGHT THIS PHANTOM WAS JUST ANOTHER LOCAL CROOK USING A RATHER THEATRICAL NAME.
BUT OUR VISIT WITH THE POLICE SHOWS HE ISN'T THAT.


WHEN YOU MENTIONED THE GHOST WHO WALKS, THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD AND OATH OF THE SKULL, IT TOOK ME BACK TO MY YOUTH.

AS A BOY, I TRAVELED WITH MY FATHER IN THE ORIENT. HOW OLD WOULD YOU SAY THIS PHANTOM FRIEND OF YOURS WAS?
OH--LATE TWENTIES, I GUESS.


YES, JUST WHAT I WOULD HAVE SAID WHEN I SAW HIM SEVENTY YEARS AGO OFF THE COAST OF SUMATRA!

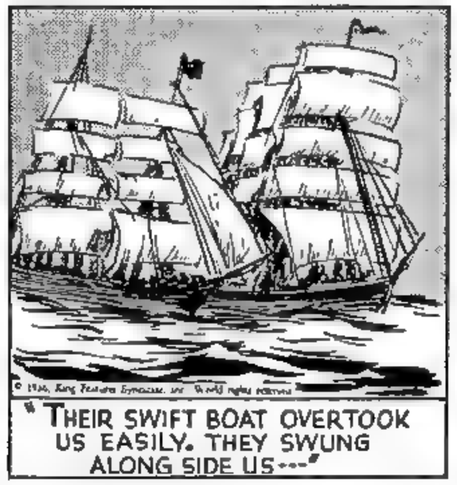
DR. JAMES DODD TELLS DIANA HE SAW THE PHANTOM SEVENTY YEARS AGO OFF THE COAST OF SUMATRA.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S YOUNG-- TWENTY-SEVEN OR TWENTY-EIGHT!
JUST WHAT I SAID WHEN I SAW HIM IN 1866! BUT LISTEN!
5.22


LOOK, JIMMY, A BOAT!
"I WAS TRAVELING WITH MY FATHER AROUND THE WORLD. JUST OFF THE COAST OF SUMATRA, IN THE JAVA SEA---"

SHE FLIES THE SPOTTED FLAG! SINGH!

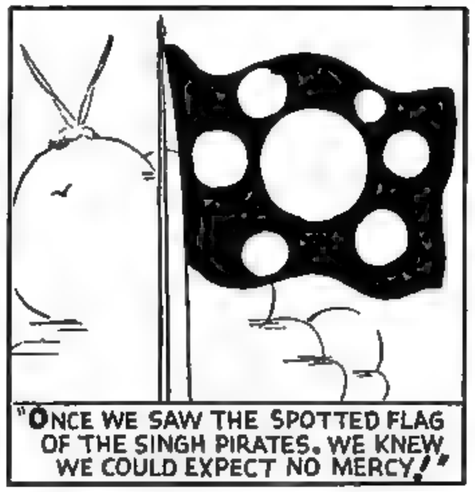
ALL HANDS ON DECK! SINGH!
"THE DREADED SINGH PIRATES WERE COMING UPON US!

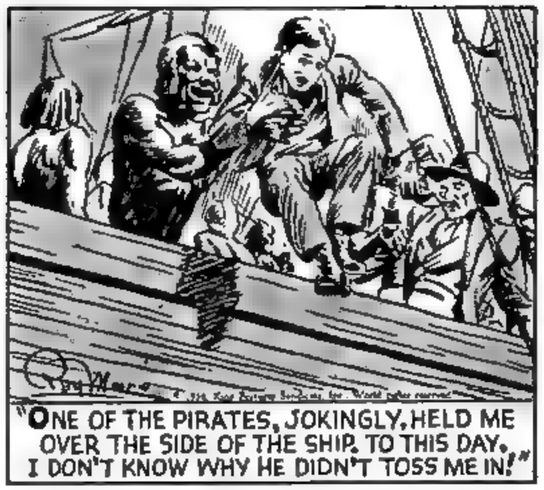
DR. DODD TELLS OF AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE DREADED SINGH PIRATES IN THE JAVA SEA, TIME--- 1866
BUT WHAT HAS THIS ANCIENT HISTORY TO DO WITH THE PHANTOM?
WAIT, MY DEAR. WE COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM THEM. THE SINGH PIRATES WERE THE SCOURGE OF THE ORIENT!
5.23

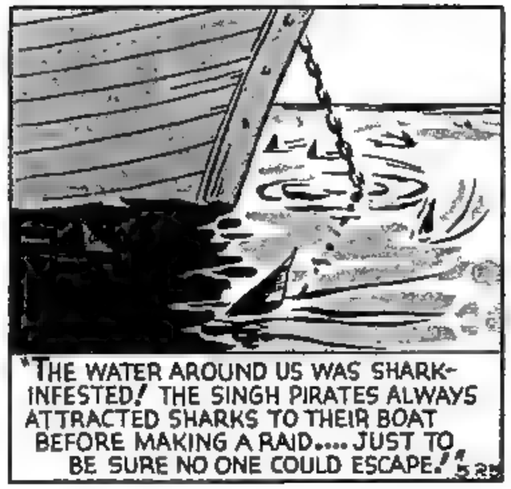

"THEIR SWIFT BOAT OVERTOOK US EASILY. THEY SWUNG ALONG SIDE US---"

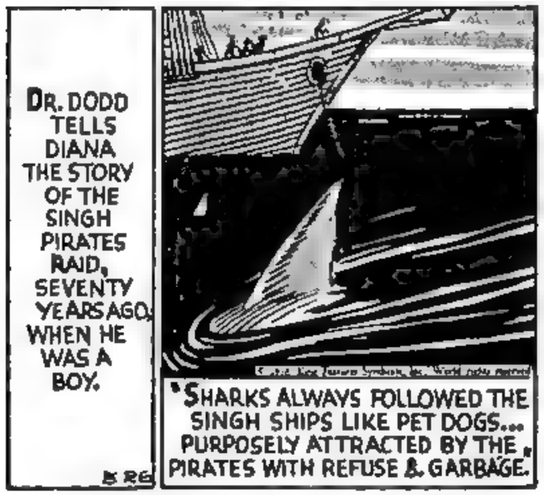
"OUR SAILORS WERE NO MATCH FOR THE DEVILS. WE COULD EXPECT ONLY DEATH AT THEIR RUTHLESS HANDS." -Continued-

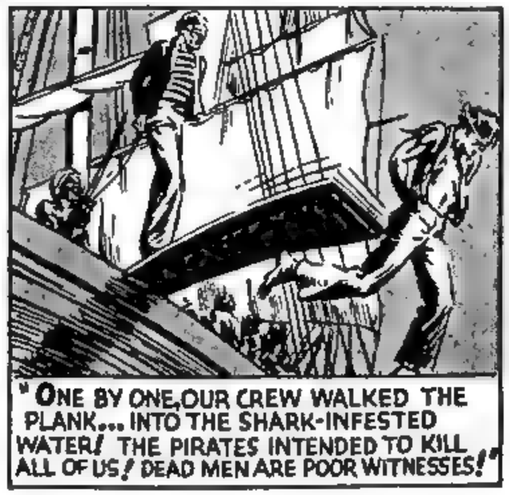
BUT, DR. DODD, WHAT HAS THAT PIRATE ATTACK OF 1866 TO DO WITH THE PHANTOM-- AND ME?
YOU'LL SOON SEE, DIANA. IT WAS SEVENTY YEARS AGO, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY.

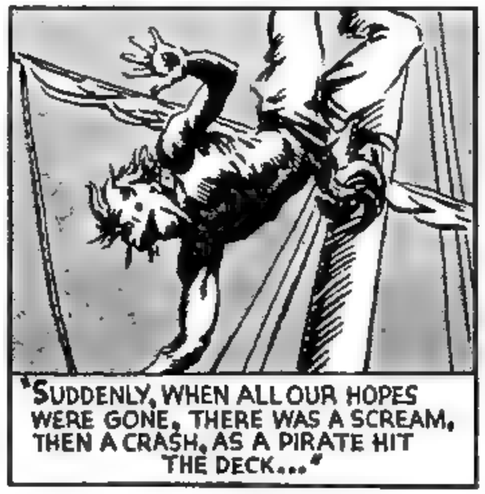

"ONCE WE SAW THE SPOTTED FLAG OF THE SINGH PIRATES. WE KNEW WE COULD EXPECT NO MERCY!"


"ONE OF THE PIRATES, JOKINGLY, HELD ME OVER THE SIDE OF THE SHIP. TO THIS DAY, I DON'T KNOW WHY HE DIDN'T TOSS ME IN!"

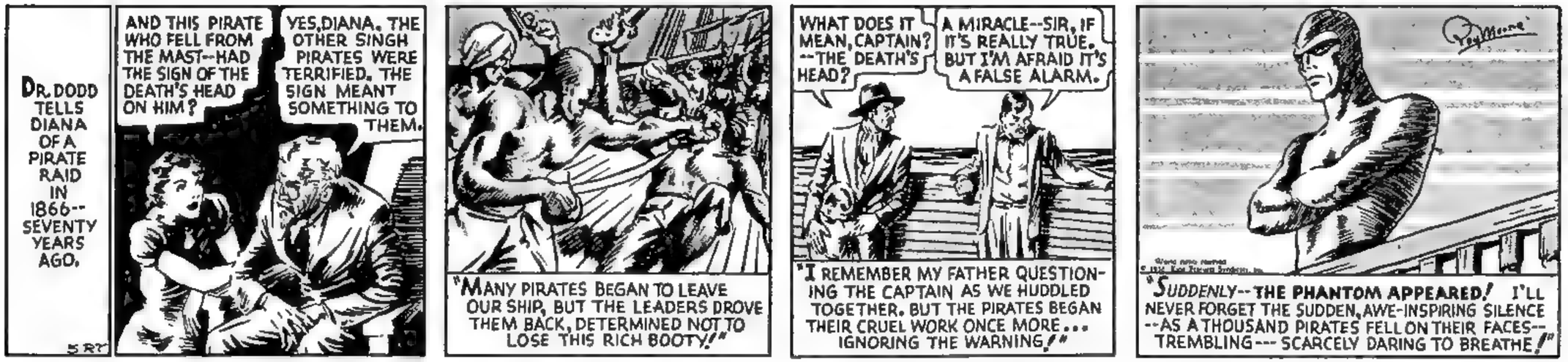

"THE WATER AROUND US WAS SHARK-INFESTED! THE SINGH PIRATES ALWAYS ATTRACTED SHARKS TO THEIR BOAT BEFORE MAKING A RAID.... JUST TO BE SURE NO ONE COULD ESCAPE!"

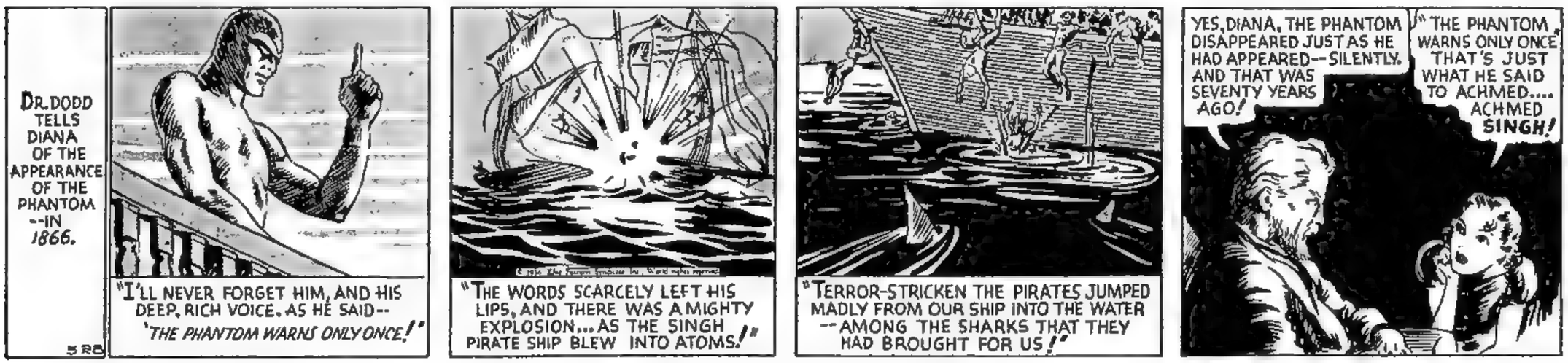

DR. DODD TELLS DIANA THE STORY OF THE SINGH PIRATES RAID, SEVENTY YEARS AGO, WHEN HE WAS A BOY.
"SHARKS ALWAYS FOLLOWED THE SINGH SHIPS LIKE PET DOGS... PURPOSELY ATTRACTED BY THE PIRATES WITH REFUSE & GARBAGE.


"ONE BY ONE, OUR CREW WALKED THE PLANK... INTO THE SHARK-INFESTED WATER! THE PIRATES INTENDED TO KILL ALL OF US! DEAD MEN ARE POOR WITNESSES!"


"SUDDENLY, WHEN ALL OUR HOPES WERE GONE, THERE WAS A SCREAM, THEN A CRASH, AS A PIRATE HIT THE DECK..."

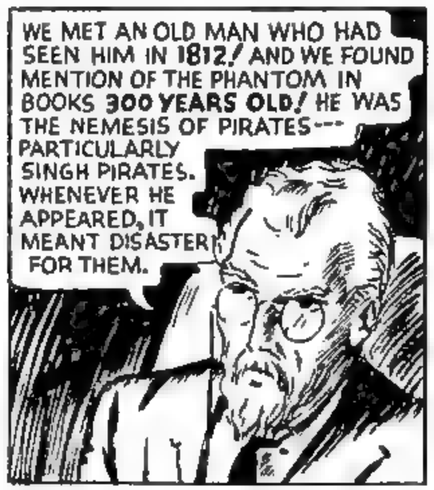
"HE SEEMED TO HAVE FALLEN FROM THE MAST -- AND ON HIS FACE WAS THE MARK OF THE DEATH'S HEAD... THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM!"

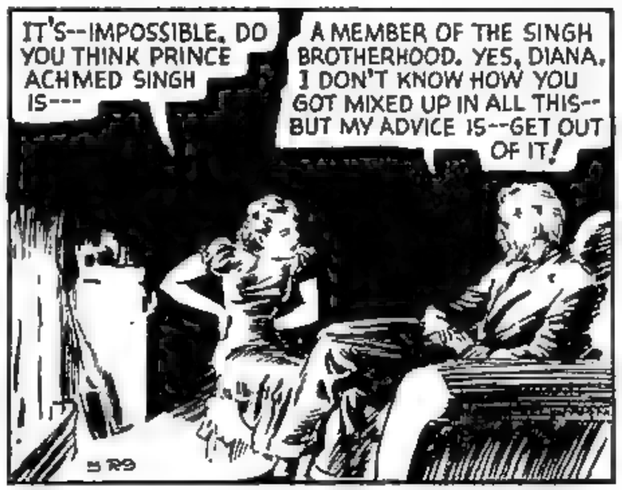

DR. DODD TELLS DIANA OF A PIRATE RAID IN 1866--SEVENTY YEARS AGO.
AND THIS PIRATE WHO FELL FROM THE MAST--HAD THE SIGN OF THE DEATH'S HEAD ON HIM?
YES, DIANA. THE OTHER SINGH PIRATES WERE TERRIFIED. THE SIGN MEANT SOMETHING TO THEM.
"MANY PIRATES BEGAN TO LEAVE OUR SHIP, BUT THE LEADERS DROVE THEM BACK, DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE THIS RICH BOOTY!"
WHAT DOES IT MEAN, CAPTAIN? --THE DEATH'S HEAD?
A MIRACLE--SIR, IF IT'S REALLY TRUE. BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S A FALSE ALARM.
"I REMEMBER MY FATHER QUESTIONING THE CAPTAIN AS WE HUDDLED TOGETHER. BUT THE PIRATES BEGAN THEIR CRUEL WORK ONCE MORE... IGNORING THE WARNING!"
"SUDDENLY--THE PHANTOM APPEARED! I'LL NEVER FORGET THE SUDDEN, AWE-INSPIRING SILENCE --AS A THOUSAND PIRATES FELL ON THEIR FACES-- TREMBLING--- SCARCELY DARING TO BREATHE!"


DR. DODD TELLS DIANA OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE PHANTOM --IN 1866.
"I'LL NEVER FORGET HIM, AND HIS DEEP, RICH VOICE, AS HE SAID-- 'THE PHANTOM WARNS ONLY ONCE!'"
"THE WORDS SCARCELY LEFT HIS LIPS, AND THERE WAS A MIGHTY EXPLOSION... AS THE SINGH PIRATE SHIP BLEW INTO ATOMS!"
"TERROR-STRICKEN THE PIRATES JUMPED MADLY FROM OUR SHIP INTO THE WATER --AMONG THE SHARKS THAT THEY HAD BROUGHT FOR US!"
YES, DIANA, THE PHANTOM DISAPPEARED JUST AS HE HAD APPEARED--SILENTLY. AND THAT WAS SEVENTY YEARS AGO!
"THE PHANTOM WARNS ONLY ONCE" THAT'S JUST WHAT HE SAID TO ACHMED.... ACHMED SINGH!

BUT, DR. DODD, YOUR STORY IS IMPOSSIBLE. IF YOU SAW THE PHANTOM IN 1866, THAT WOULD MAKE HIM AT LEAST 100 YEARS OLD!
AT THE VERY LEAST, DIANA!

NATURALLY, FATHER AND I WERE INTERESTED IN THE PHANTOM. WE DELVED INTO ANCIENT BOOKS. WE ASKED SEA CAPTAINS AND SAILORS ABOUT HIM.


WE MET AN OLD MAN WHO HAD SEEN HIM IN 1812! AND WE FOUND MENTION OF THE PHANTOM IN BOOKS 300 YEARS OLD! HE WAS THE NEMESIS OF PIRATES--- PARTICULARLY SINGH PIRATES. WHENEVER HE APPEARED, IT MEANT DISASTER FOR THEM.


IT'S--IMPOSSIBLE. DO YOU THINK PRINCE ACHMED SINGH IS---
A MEMBER OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD. YES, DIANA. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT MIXED UP IN ALL THIS-- BUT MY ADVICE IS--GET OUT OF IT!

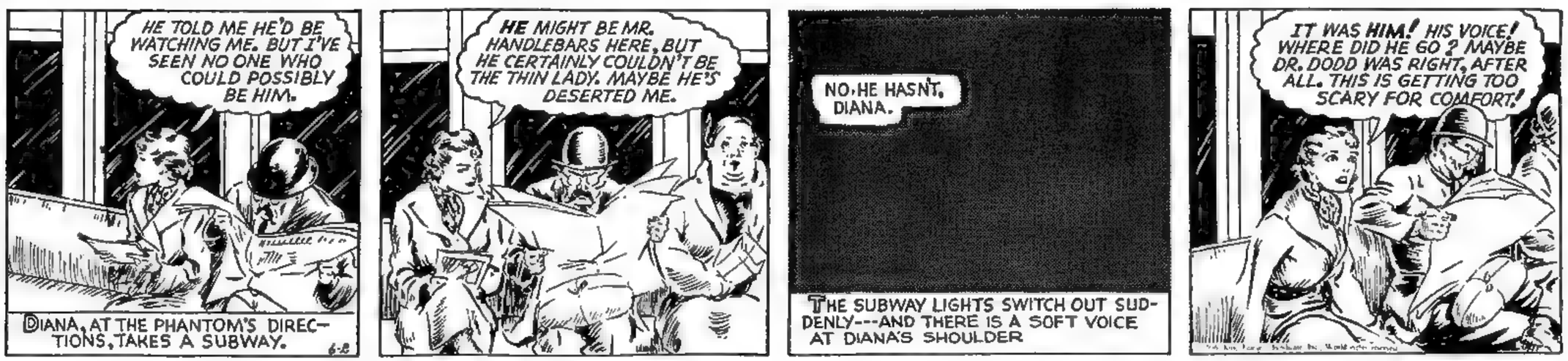
DR. DODD TELLS DIANA THAT THE PHANTOM IS BETWEEN 300 AND 400 YEARS OLD.
ALL THROUGH ASIA, DIANA, HE IS A MYTH. THE SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVES THINK HE'S A GOD --AND I'M DARNED IF I KNOW WHAT HE IS.
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE --I WAS WITH HIM--AND YET HE WAS STRANGE.

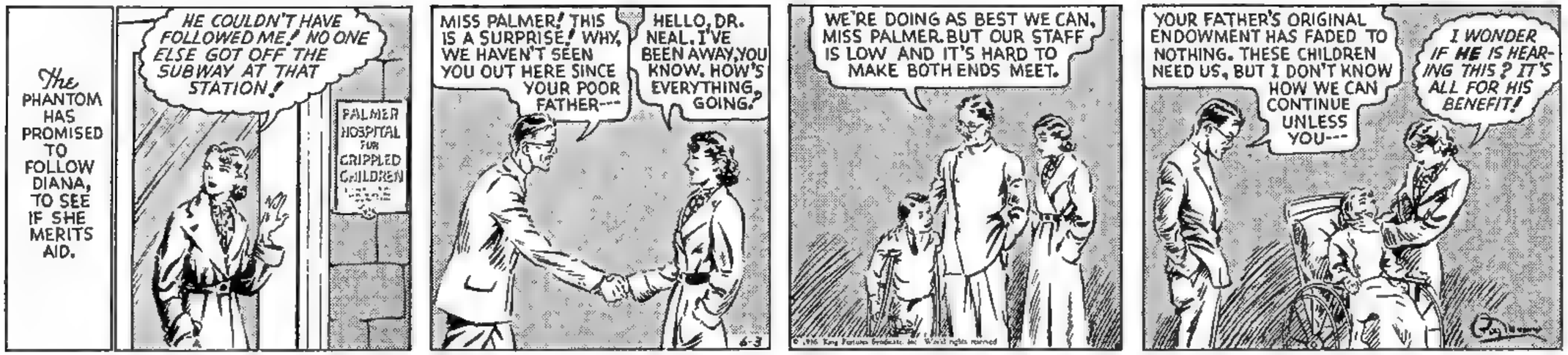
I CAN'T POSSIBLY GO AFTER THAT AMBERGRIS WITHOUT HIS HELP.
IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T, DIANA. THERE ARE MANY STRANGE THINGS IN THIS WORLD. YOU'D BETTER STAY HOME--- AND NOT MEDDLE WITH THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

TO THINK THAT I WAS KISSED BY A---BY A MYTH! BY A MAN 400 YEARS OLD! I WONDER-- WILL I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?
AFTER OLD DR. DODD HAS GONE, DIANA DAY-DREAMS.

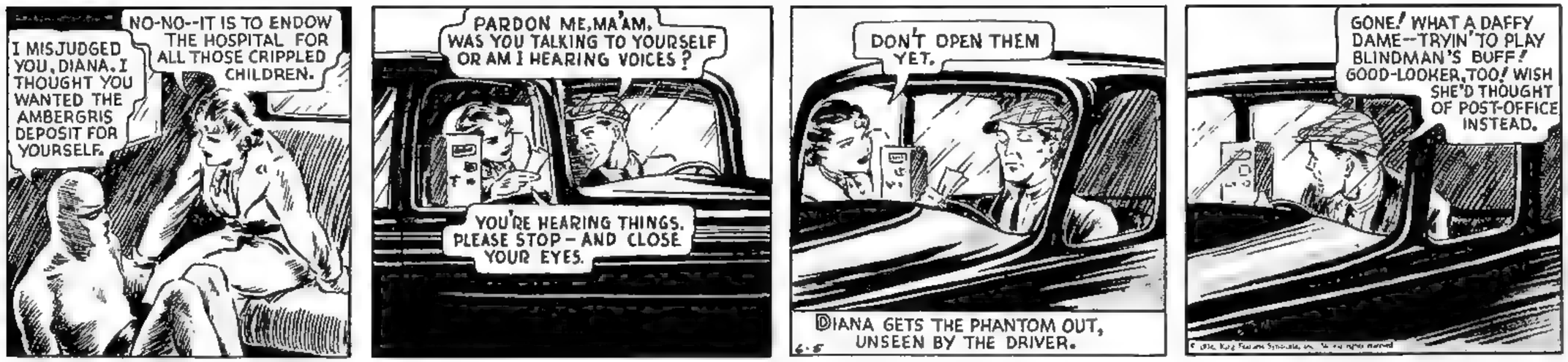
YOU WILL IF YOU LOOK
YOU!
Continued-

DIANA, I TOLD YOU I HAD NO TIME TO HELP A FORTUNE-HUNTER. IF YOU STILL WANT THE AMBERGRIS YOU DISCOVERED AND HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR WANTING IT, I MAY HELP YOU.
OH, BUT, I HAVE!
WE'LL GO RIGHT NOW, IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME. BUT FIRST, WON'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHO YOU ARE? ANIMAL, VEGETABLE --OR MINERAL?
I TOLD YOU TO ASK DR. DODD ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT ANSWERED
I DID--BUT--I'M AFRAID DR. DODD IS IN HIS SECOND --ER--CHILDHOOD. TOLD ME SUCH NONSENSE-- ABOUT YOU BEING CENTURIES OLD-- AND--
HE ALSO TOLD YOU THERE WERE MANY STRANGE THINGS IN THIS WORLD, DIDN'T HE?
DON'T LAUGH AT WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. NOW I'M READY TO GIVE YOU YOUR CHANCE. TAKE THE SUBWAY. YOU WON'T SEE ME-- BUT I'LL BE WATCHING YOU.


HE TOLD ME HE'D BE WATCHING ME. BUT I'VE SEEN NO ONE WHO COULD POSSIBLY BE HIM.
DIANA, AT THE PHANTOM'S DIRECTIONS, TAKES A SUBWAY.
HE MIGHT BE MR. HANDLEBARS HERE, BUT HE CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE THE THIN LADY. MAYBE HE'S DESERTED ME.
NO, HE HASN'T, DIANA.
THE SUBWAY LIGHTS SWITCH OUT SUDDENLY---AND THERE IS A SOFT VOICE AT DIANA'S SHOULDER
IT WAS HIM! HIS VOICE! WHERE DID HE GO? MAYBE DR. DODD WAS RIGHT, AFTER ALL. THIS IS GETTING TOO SCARY FOR COMFORT!

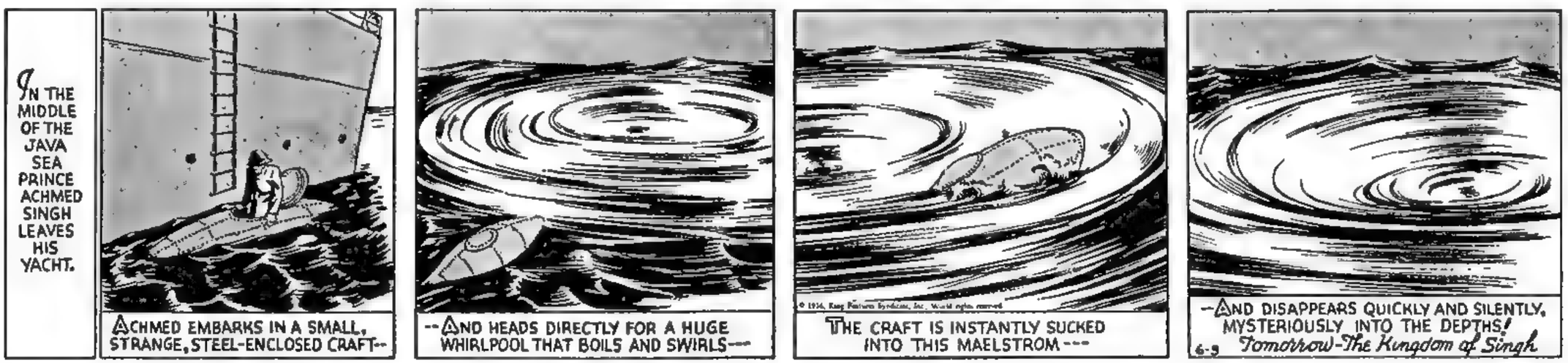

The PHANTOM HAS PROMISED TO FOLLOW DIANA, TO SEE IF SHE MERITS AID.
HE COULDN'T HAVE FOLLOWED ME! NO ONE ELSE GOT OFF THE SUBWAY AT THAT STATION!
PALMER HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN
MISS PALMER! THIS IS A SURPRISE! WHY, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU OUT HERE SINCE YOUR POOR FATHER---
HELLO, DR. NEAL. I'VE BEEN AWAY, YOU KNOW. HOW'S EVERYTHING GOING?
6-3
WE'RE DOING AS BEST WE CAN, MISS PALMER. BUT OUR STAFF IS LOW AND IT'S HARD TO MAKE BOTH ENDS MEET.
YOUR FATHER'S ORIGINAL ENDOWMENT HAS FADED TO NOTHING. THESE CHILDREN NEED US, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN CONTINUE UNLESS YOU---
I WONDER IF HE IS HEARING THIS? IT'S ALL FOR HIS BENEFIT!

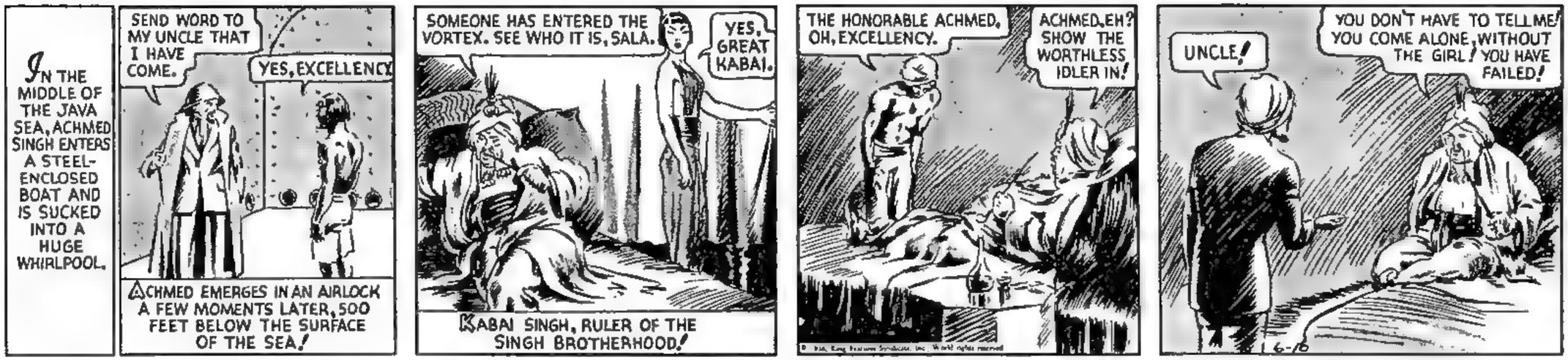
WE ARE A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION, MISS PALMER, AS YOU KNOW. WITHOUT YOUR HELP WE CAN'T GO MUCH FURTHER.
I KNOW, DR. NEAL. MOST OF FATHER'S FORTUNE WENT TOWARDS FOUNDING THIS HOSPITAL. THE LITTLE I HAVE LEFT WOULDN'T GO VERY FAR.
THIS PLACE MEANT EVERYTHING TO DAD. HE WAS CRIPPLED AS A CHILD, YOU KNOW. I'VE GOT TO KEEP IT GOING. YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME SOON.
THANK YOU, MISS PALMER.
PALMER HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN
OH, DEAR, ALL THAT TALK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PHANTOM AND WHERE WAS HE? TAXI!
6-4
YOU! WHERE DID YOU--?
WAS YOU TALKING TO ME, MA'AM?


I MISJUDGED YOU, DIANA. I THOUGHT YOU WANTED THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT FOR YOURSELF.
NO-NO--IT IS TO ENDOW THE HOSPITAL FOR ALL THOSE CRIPPLED CHILDREN.
PARDON ME, MA'AM. WAS YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF OR AM I HEARING VOICES?
YOU'RE HEARING THINGS. PLEASE STOP – AND CLOSE YOUR EYES.
DON'T OPEN THEM YET.
DIANA GETS THE PHANTOM OUT, UNSEEN BY THE DRIVER.
GONE! WHAT A DAFFY DAME--TRYIN' TO PLAY BLINDMAN'S BUFF! GOOD-LOOKER, TOO! WISH SHE'D THOUGHT OF POST-OFFICE INSTEAD.

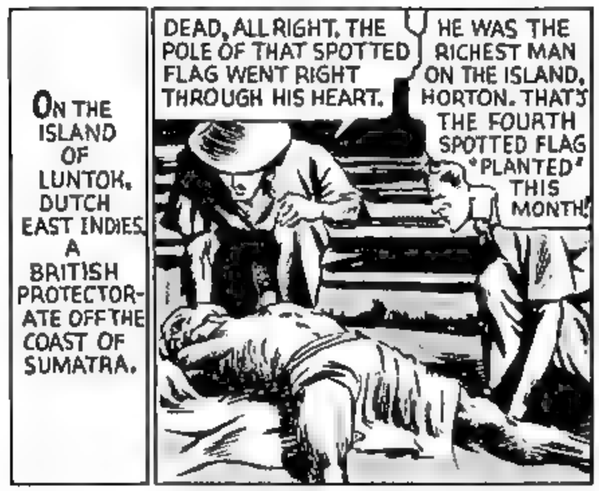
THEN YOU WILL HELP ME? THANK HEAVENS! AND NOW WILL YOU TELL ME WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE?
I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU A LOT OF THINGS, DIANA – BUT I CAN'T.
THIS IS-- AU REVOIR--
UNTIL WE-- MEET---AGAIN--
GONE AGAIN! HIS ARMS FELT A LITTLE TOO SOLID FOR A MYTH! DR. DODD CLAIMS HE'S 400 YEARS OLD.
BUT HE'S NEVER KISSED DR. DODD. IF HE DID, THE OLD DOCTOR MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND!... TOO!
NEXT WEEK—PHANTOM'S HOMECOMING

OUR SCENE SHIFTS EASTWARD, ABOARD SHIP WITH DIANA ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.
CAPTAIN, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD AND THE PHANTOM?
WHY, YES, MISS PALMER. THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD WAS A GANG OF PIRATES THAT USED TO INFEST THESE EASTERN WATERS.
BUT THEY WERE WIPED OUT YEARS AGO.
REALLY? AND THE PHANTOM?
AND OLD MYTH THROUGHOUT THE ORIENT, MA'AM. A COMBINATION OF ROBIN HOOD AND JESSE JAMES. NATIVES THOUGHT HIM IMMORTAL. JUST A SUPERSTITION, DON'T YOU KNOW.
OH, I SEE.
WE HAVE REACHED THE VORTEX, EXCELLENCY.
I AM READY.
MEANWHILE, EASTWARD ON PRINCE ACHMED SINGH'S YACHT, IN THE SEA OF JAVA.
6-8
Tomorrow-The Amazing Vortex


IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JAVA SEA PRINCE ACHMED SINGH LEAVES HIS YACHT.
ACHMED EMBARKS IN A SMALL, STRANGE, STEEL-ENCLOSED CRAFT--
--AND HEADS DIRECTLY FOR A HUGE WHIRLPOOL THAT BOILS AND SWIRLS---
THE CRAFT IS INSTANTLY SUCKED INTO THIS MAELSTROM---
--AND DISAPPEARS QUICKLY AND SILENTLY, MYSTERIOUSLY INTO THE DEPTHS!
6-9
Tomorrow-The Kingdom of Singh


IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JAVA SEA, ACHMED SINGH ENTERS A STEEL-ENCLOSED BOAT AND IS SUCKED INTO A HUGE WHIRLPOOL.
SEND WORD TO MY UNCLE THAT I HAVE COME.
YES, EXCELLENCY
ACHMED EMERGES IN AN AIRLOCK A FEW MOMENTS LATER, 500 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE SEA!
SOMEONE HAS ENTERED THE VORTEX. SEE WHO IT IS, SALA.
YES, GREAT KABAI.
KABAI SINGH, RULER OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD!
THE HONORABLE ACHMED, OH, EXCELLENCY.
ACHMED, EH? SHOW THE WORTHLESS IDLER IN!
UNCLE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME! YOU COME ALONE, WITHOUT THE GIRL! YOU HAVE FAILED!

BENEATH THE JAVA SEA, IN THE STRANGE KINGDOM OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD.
BUT, UNCLE, I'VE TOLD YOU. I HAD HER—AND THEN THE PHANTOM--
BAH! THE PHANTOM! YOU'RE NOT DELUDED BY THAT BOGEYMAN! AND THROW AWAY THAT WEED. YOU KNOW HOW I HATE YOUR WESTERN TRICKS.
THAT SLIP OF A WHITE GIRL DISCOVERS THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT AND YOU LET HER GET AWAY! BAH! IF YOU WEREN'T A HIGH SINGH, I'D TOSS YOU TO THE SHARKS!
SEND IN THE COLLECTORS! ACHMED, I WANT NO WORD OF THE PHANTOM TO THE OTHERS, UNDERSTAND! TRY TO RUB OFF THAT DEATH'S HEAD. YOU'RE TO STAY HERE AT KRAKATAN, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE! BUNGLER!
I WANT COLLECTIONS FROM THE ISLAND OF LUNTOK. COLLECT--OR PLANT THE FLAG! AND NO BUNGLING OR YOU ALL GO INTO THE SHARK TANK!


ON THE ISLAND OF LUNTOK, DUTCH EAST INDIES, A BRITISH PROTECTORATE OFF THE COAST OF SUMATRA.
DEAD, ALL RIGHT. THE POLE OF THAT SPOTTED FLAG WENT RIGHT THROUGH HIS HEART.
HE WAS THE RICHEST MAN ON THE ISLAND, HORTON. THAT'S THE FOURTH SPOTTED FLAG "PLANTED" THIS MONTH!

SPOTTED FLAG? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
JUST THIS! THE OLD SINGH BROTHERHOOD OF PIRATES HAS COME TO LIFE AGAIN, BUT ON A GIGANTIC SCALE!

THEY'VE GONE MODERN. INSTEAD OF OLD-FASHIONED PIRACY ALONE, THEY'RE STARTING A HUGE EXTORTION RACKET! RICH NATIVES EITHER PAY FOR SAFETY OR THEY "PLANT THE FLAG!" THE SPOTTED FLAG IS THEIR SYMBOL!

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. EVERYONE WITH MONEY IS FLEEING TO THE MAINLAND.
THAT WON'T HELP. THEIR HEADQUARTERS ARE AROUND HERE, HIDDEN SOMEWHERE, BUT THEIR OPERATIONS WILL SOON EXTEND THROUGHOUT ASIA! AND WE'RE HELPLESS--BECAUSE WE CAN'T FIND THEM!

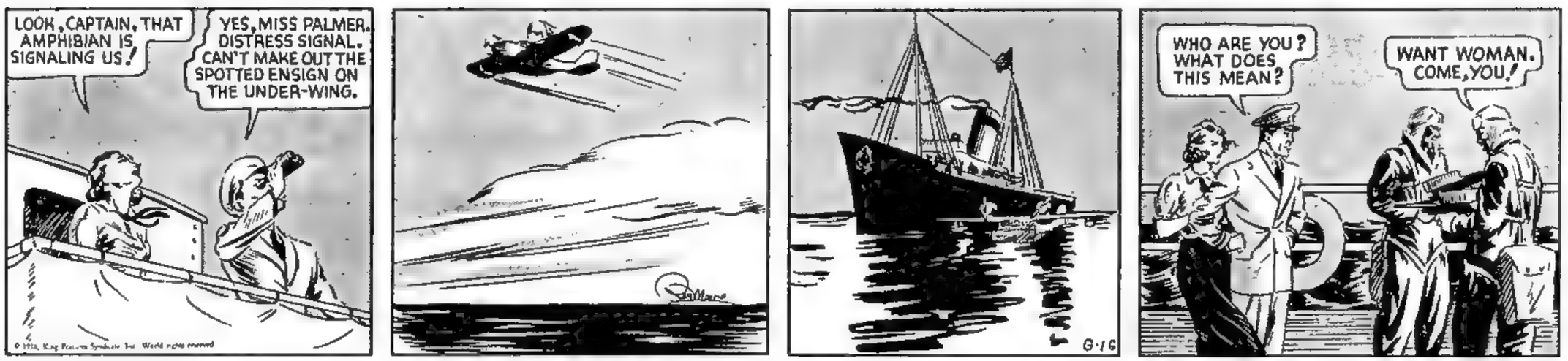
I WANT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND IN CASH, AND NOW! OTHERWISE--I PLANT THE SPOTTED FLAG!
YOU ARE--A SINGH MAN!

YES, SINGH! THAT MEANS PAYMENT AND SILENCE--OR SWIFT DEATH! THERE IS NO ONE TO AID YOU.
THERE IS--ONE! SOMEDAY HE WILL RETURN! THE PHANTOM!

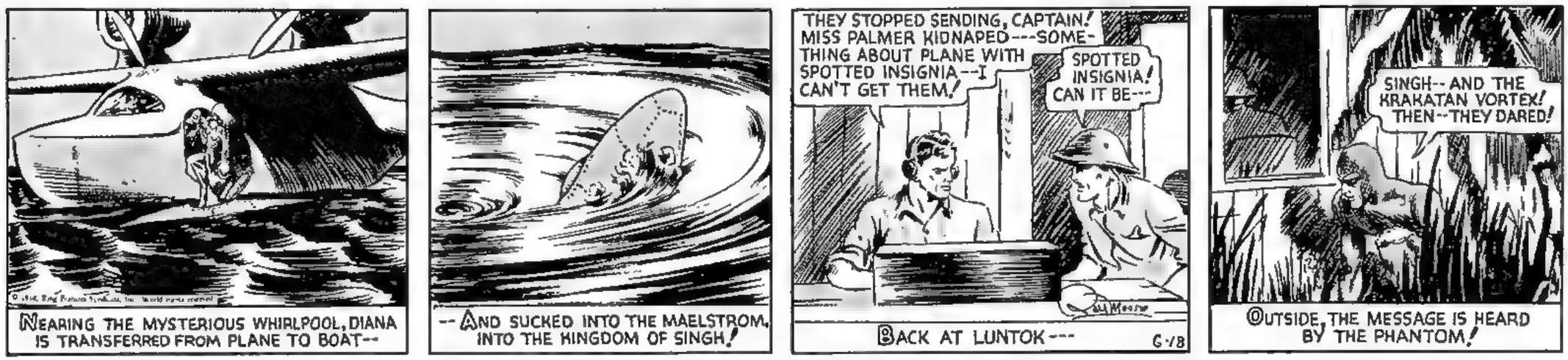
THE PHANTOM! HA! HA! WE OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD NO LONGER BELIEVE IN THE OLD FAIRY STORIES, BROTHER. THE PHANTOM! HA HA!

SUDDENLY, SILENTLY, AN ARM OF STEEL ENCIRCLES HIS NECK. HIS EYES BULGE AS HALF-STRANGLED, HE SEES THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM! —Continued—

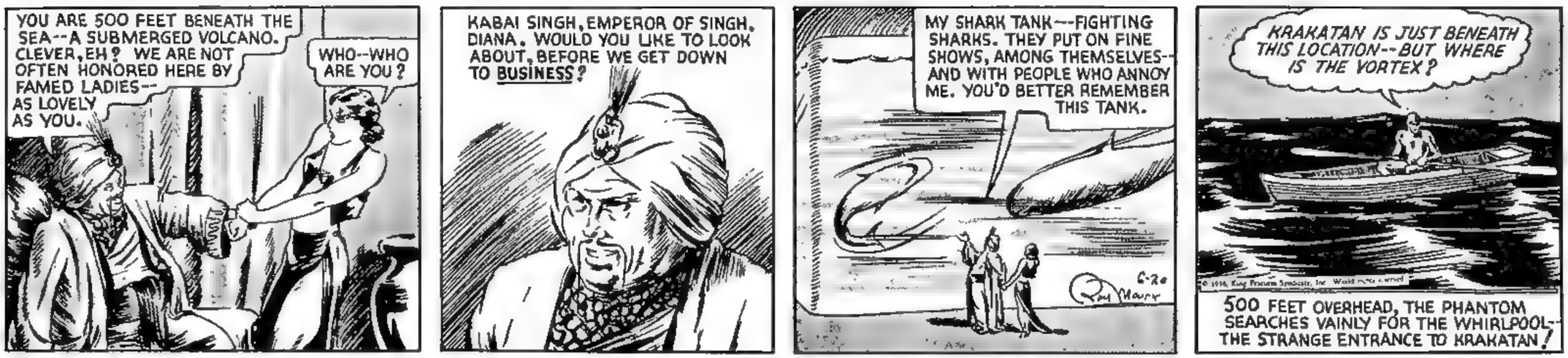
ON LUNTOK OFF THE COAST OF JAVA, DUTCH EAST INDIES.
BY JOVE, A LETTER FROM JIMMY! DIANA PALMER'S HEADED BACK HERE AGAIN! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE HER AGAIN!
CAPTAIN MELVILLE HORTON, BRITISH COLONIAL SERVICE, RECEIVES AN INTERESTING LETTER.
THE GIRL, DIANA PALMER, HEADS THIS WAY. YOU HAVE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS FAIL AND YOU GO INTO THE SHARKS' TANK!
AY, GREAT KABAI.
SOMEWHERE UNDER THE JAVA SEA, KABAI SINGH GIVES ORDERS!
SHE'LL BE HERE SOON, DEVIL. A LOVELY GIRL. YOU'LL LIKE HER.
G-15
IN A SECLUDED HIGHLAND CASTLE, THE PHANTOM WAITS.
WE'LL SOON BE THERE. I WONDER IF ANYONE'S EXPECTING ME?

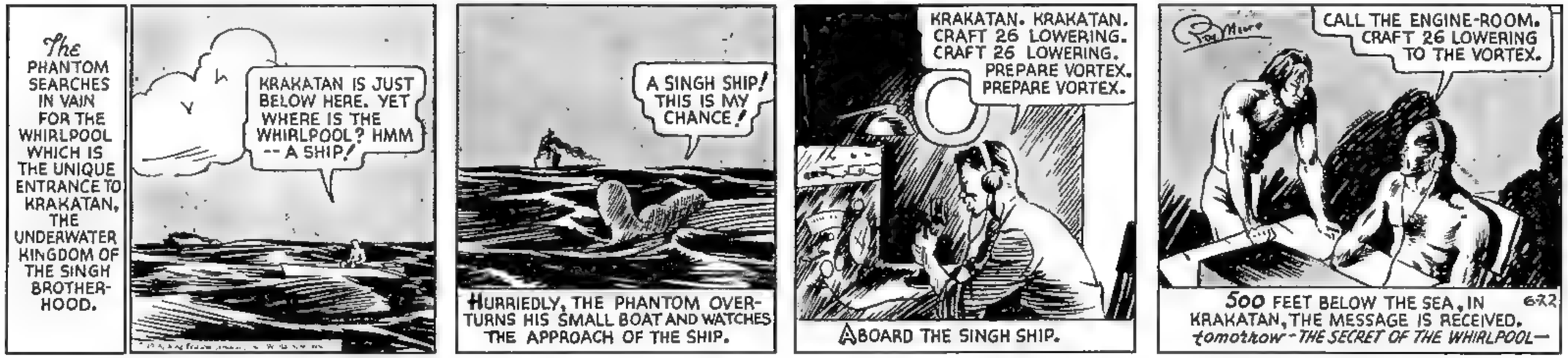

LOOK, CAPTAIN, THAT AMPHIBIAN IS SIGNALING US!
YES, MISS PALMER. DISTRESS SIGNAL. CAN'T MAKE OUT THE SPOTTED ENSIGN ON THE UNDER-WING.
G-16
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
WANT WOMAN. COME, YOU!

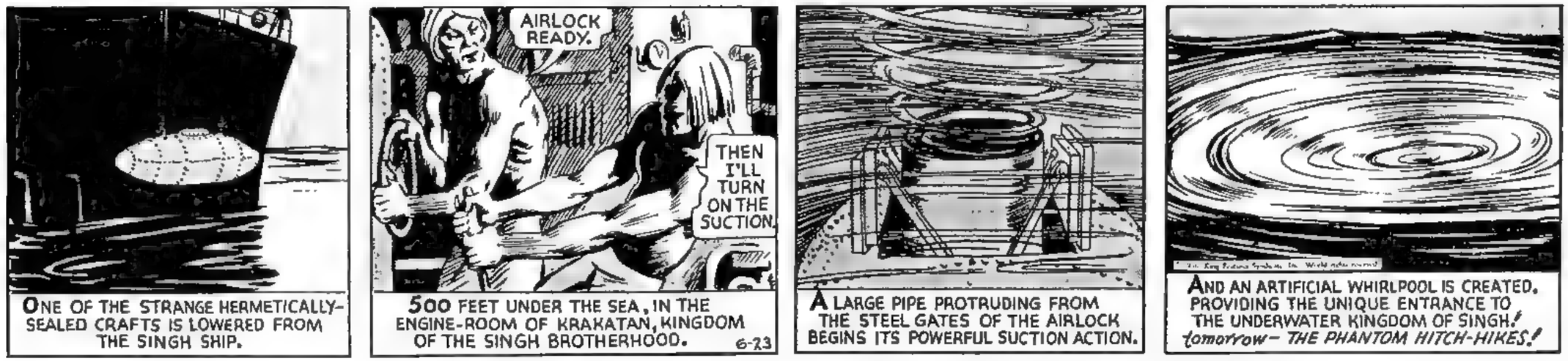
ARMED WITH MACHINE-GUNS, THE SINGH AVIATORS TAKE DIANA OFF THE SHIP, UP IN THEIR SEAPLANE!
QUICK, GET BATAVIA OR SERANG! GOVERNMENT PLANES'LL CATCH UP WITH THOSE RASCALS!
RIGHT, CAPTAIN!
NO--YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
OVERHEAD, IN THE SINGH PLANE.
6-17

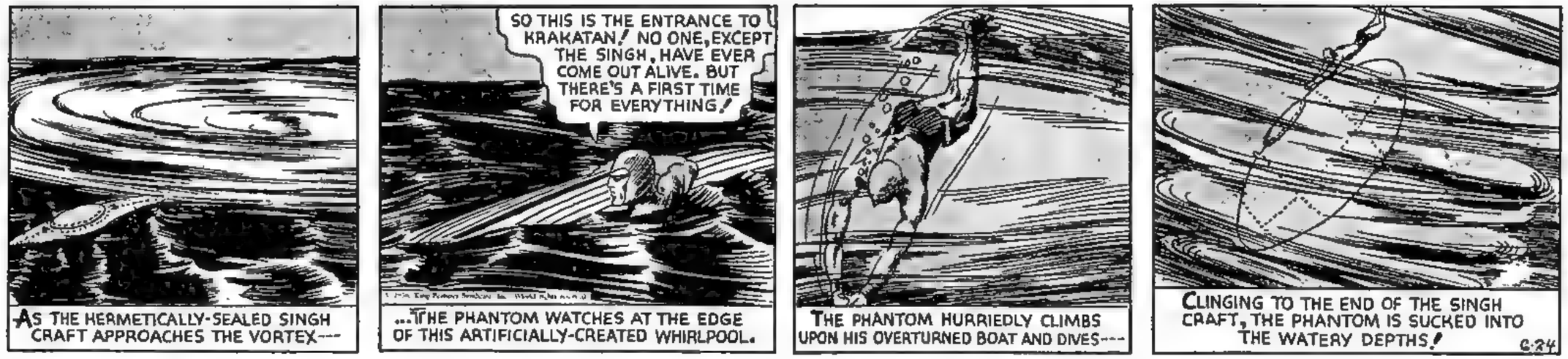

NEARING THE MYSTERIOUS WHIRLPOOL, DIANA IS TRANSFERRED FROM PLANE TO BOAT--
--AND SUCKED INTO THE MAELSTROM, INTO THE KINGDOM OF SINGH!
THEY STOPPED SENDING, CAPTAIN! MISS PALMER KIDNAPED---SOMETHING ABOUT PLANE WITH SPOTTED INSIGNIA--I CAN'T GET THEM!
SPOTTED INSIGNIA! CAN IT BE---
BACK AT LUNTOK---
6-18
SINGH--AND THE KRAKATAN VORTEX! THEN--THEY DARED!
OUTSIDE, THE MESSAGE IS HEARD BY THE PHANTOM!

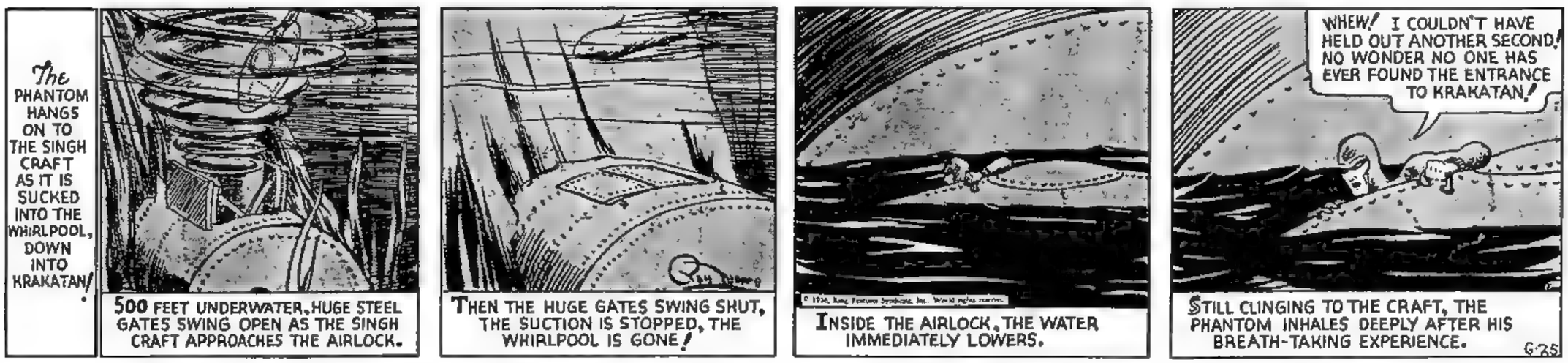
KIDNAPED BY SINGH AVIATORS, DIANA IS TAKEN UNDER THE SEA, INTO THE STRANGE UNDERWATER KINGDOM OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD
STOP--PLEASE--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WESTERN CLOTHES OFFEND EYE OF MIGHTY KABAI. NO HARM WILL COME --YET.
ONLY THE IMMACULATE FACE THE MIGHTY KABAI.
WELL--I--I--NEEDED A BATH ANYHOW. T-THANKS.
MIGHTY KABAI, WE BRING YOU THE WHITE GIRL.
PRETTY, PRETTY--FOR A WOMAN EXPLORER-- COME FORWARD, MISS DIANA PALMER. WE WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH YOU.
6-19


YOU ARE 500 FEET BENEATH THE SEA--A SUBMERGED VOLCANO. CLEVER, EH? WE ARE NOT OFTEN HONORED HERE BY FAMED LADIES-- AS LOVELY AS YOU.
WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
KABAI SINGH, EMPEROR OF SINGH. DIANA. WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOOK ABOUT, BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
MY SHARK TANK---FIGHTING SHARKS. THEY PUT ON FINE SHOWS, AMONG THEMSELVES-- AND WITH PEOPLE WHO ANNOY ME. YOU'D BETTER REMEMBER THIS TANK.
6-20
KRAKATAN IS JUST BENEATH THIS LOCATION--BUT WHERE IS THE VORTEX?
500 FEET OVERHEAD, THE PHANTOM SEARCHES VAINLY FOR THE WHIRLPOOL-- THE STRANGE ENTRANCE TO KRAKATAN!


The PHANTOM SEARCHES IN VAIN FOR THE WHIRLPOOL WHICH IS THE UNIQUE ENTRANCE TO KRAKATAN, THE UNDERWATER KINGDOM OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD.
KRAKATAN IS JUST BELOW HERE. YET WHERE IS THE WHIRLPOOL? HMM -- A SHIP!
A SINGH SHIP! THIS IS MY CHANCE!
HURRIEDLY, THE PHANTOM OVERTURNS HIS SMALL BOAT AND WATCHES THE APPROACH OF THE SHIP.
KRAKATAN. KRAKATAN. CRAFT 26 LOWERING. CRAFT 26 LOWERING. PREPARE VORTEX. PREPARE VORTEX.
ABOARD THE SINGH SHIP.
CALL THE ENGINE-ROOM. CRAFT 26 LOWERING TO THE VORTEX.
500 FEET BELOW THE SEA, IN KRAKATAN, THE MESSAGE IS RECEIVED.
6-22
tomorrow - THE SECRET OF THE WHIRLPOOL—

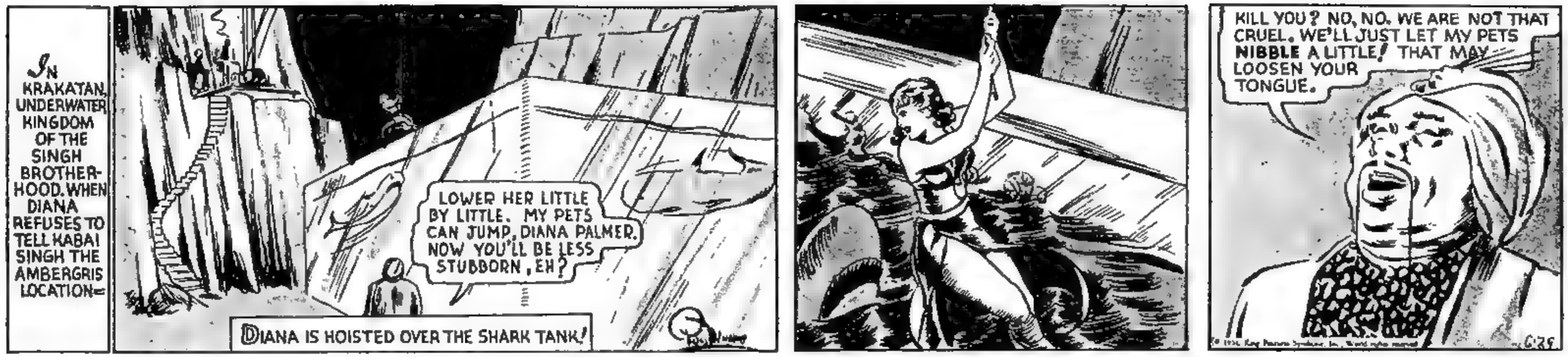

ONE OF THE STRANGE HERMETICALLY-SEALED CRAFTS IS LOWERED FROM THE SINGH SHIP.
AIRLOCK READY.
THEN I'LL TURN ON THE SUCTION.
500 FEET UNDER THE SEA, IN THE ENGINE-ROOM OF KRAKATAN, KINGDOM OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD.
6-23
A LARGE PIPE PROTRUDING FROM THE STEEL GATES OF THE AIRLOCK BEGINS ITS POWERFUL SUCTION ACTION.
AND AN ARTIFICIAL WHIRLPOOL IS CREATED, PROVIDING THE UNIQUE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERWATER KINGDOM OF SINGH!
tomorrow— THE PHANTOM HITCH-HIKES!

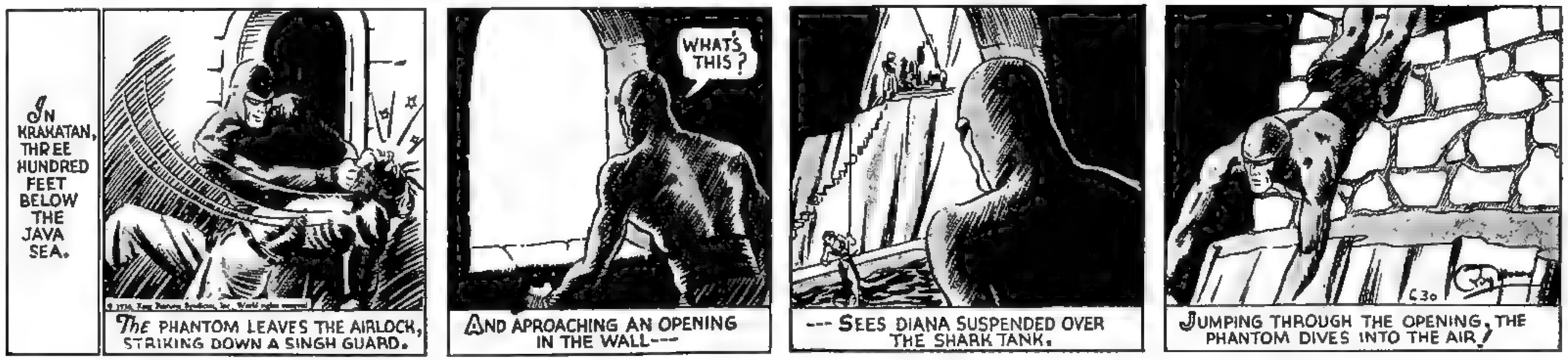

AS THE HERMETICALLY-SEALED SINGH CRAFT APPROACHES THE VORTEX---
SO THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO KRAKATAN! NO ONE, EXCEPT THE SINGH, HAVE EVER COME OUT ALIVE. BUT THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING!
...THE PHANTOM WATCHES AT THE EDGE OF THIS ARTIFICIALLY-CREATED WHIRLPOOL.
THE PHANTOM HURRIEDLY CLIMBS UPON HIS OVERTURNED BOAT AND DIVES---
CLINGING TO THE END OF THE SINGH CRAFT, THE PHANTOM IS SUCKED INTO THE WATERY DEPTHS!
6-24

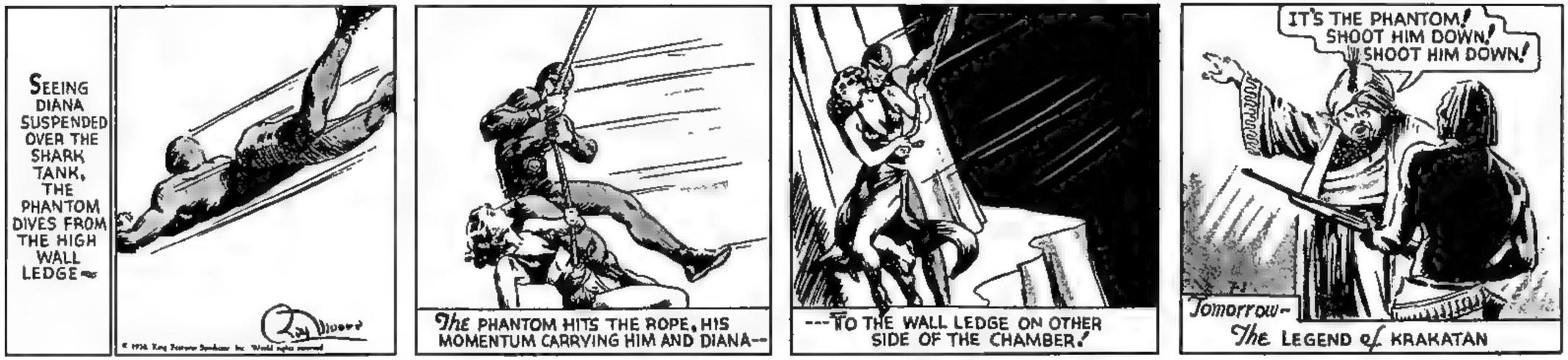

The PHANTOM HANGS ON TO THE SINGH CRAFT AS IT IS SUCKED INTO THE WHIRLPOOL, DOWN INTO KRAKATAN!
500 FEET UNDERWATER, HUGE STEEL GATES SWING OPEN AS THE SINGH CRAFT APPROACHES THE AIRLOCK.
THEN THE HUGE GATES SWING SHUT, THE SUCTION IS STOPPED, THE WHIRLPOOL IS GONE!
INSIDE THE AIRLOCK, THE WATER IMMEDIATELY LOWERS.
WHEW! I COULDN'T HAVE HELD OUT ANOTHER SECOND! NO WONDER NO ONE HAS EVER FOUND THE ENTRANCE TO KRAKATAN!
STILL CLINGING TO THE CRAFT, THE PHANTOM INHALES DEEPLY AFTER HIS BREATH-TAKING EXPERIENCE.
6-25

In KRAKATAN, UNDERWATER KINGDOM OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD, KABAI SINGH HOLDS DIANA PRISONER.
YOU LIKE MY PETS, DIANA PALMER? SHARKS ARE SO MISUNDERSTOOD. FEED THEM WELL AND THEY'RE NICE ENOUGH.
KABAI SINGH WITH DIANA, AT THE SHARK TANK.
OF COURSE, I NEVER FEED THEM WELL, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THEM TO BE NICE. THEY'RE VERY HELPFUL TO ME, TAKING THE PLACE OF ELECTRIC CHAIRS, GUNS AND ALL YOUR WESTERN CLAP-TRAP.
YOU ARE 500 FEET BENEATH THE SEA. THERE IS NO ESCAPE. I WANT THE CHART LOCATION OF THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT YOU DISCOVERED---IMMEDIATELY. OTHERWISE--THE SHARK TANK.
I SEE
6-26
THIS--THIS IS A NIGHTMARE. IF ONLY THE ALARM CLOCK WOULD RING-- RIGHT NOW!

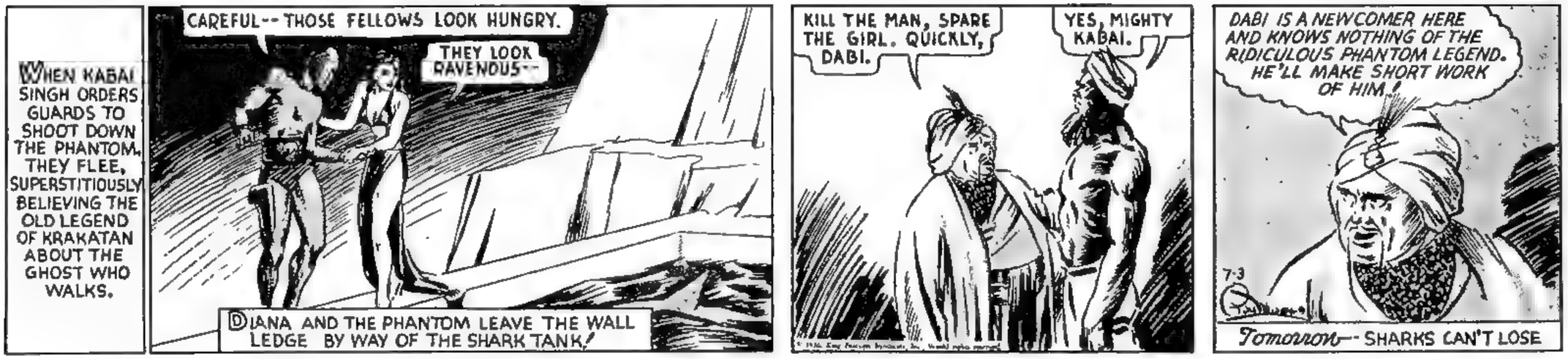
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME THE AMBERGRIS LOCATION OR SHALL IT BE THE SHARK TANK?
NEITHER ONE. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE CHART LOCATION. GIVE ME TO THE SHARKS AND THE SECRET GOES WITH ME.
AND SHARKS CAN'T TALK, KABAI SINGH.
YOU ARE A BRAVE GIRL, BUT FOOLISH. I TOLD YOU MY SHARKS WERE VERY VERSATILE. I HAVE TRAINED THEM TO JUMP!
BIND HER IN THE ROPE BELT AND HOIST HER OVER THE SHARK TANK!
MEANWHILE, THE PHANTOM EDGES CAUTIOUSLY OUT OF THE AIRLOCK, TO SEE A SINGH GUARD BLOCKING THE WAY!
6-27
—Continued—

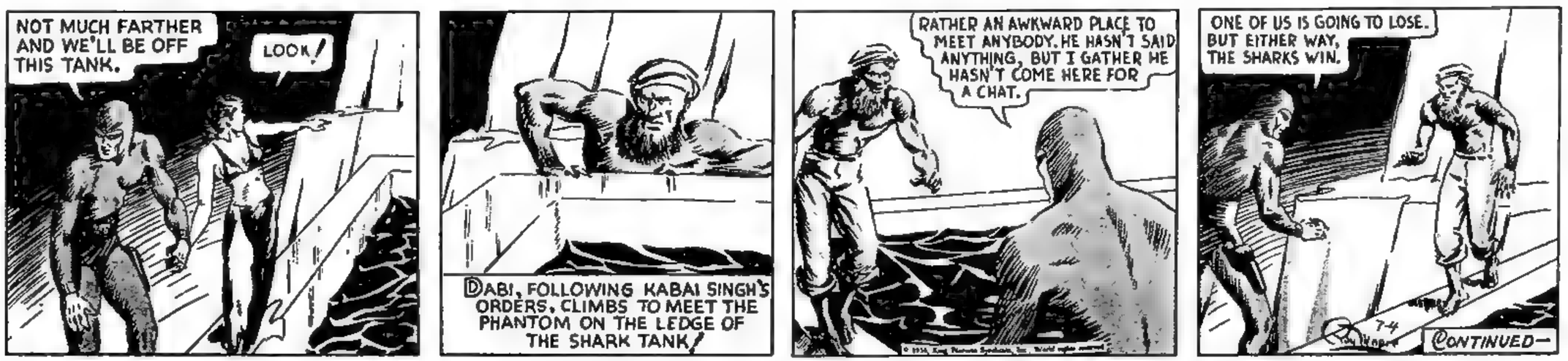

IN KRAKATAN, UNDERWATER KINGDOM OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD. WHEN DIANA REFUSES TO TELL KABAI SINGH THE AMBERGRIS LOCATION—
LOWER HER LITTLE BY LITTLE. MY PETS CAN JUMP, DIANA PALMER. NOW YOU'LL BE LESS STUBBORN, EH?
DIANA IS HOISTED OVER THE SHARK TANK!
KILL YOU? NO, NO. WE ARE NOT THAT CRUEL. WE'LL JUST LET MY PETS NIBBLE A LITTLE! THAT MAY LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE.


IN KRAKATAN, THREE HUNDRED FEET BELOW THE JAVA SEA.
THE PHANTOM LEAVES THE AIRLOCK, STRIKING DOWN A SINGH GUARD.
WHAT'S THIS?
AND APROACHING AN OPENING IN THE WALL---
--- SEES DIANA SUSPENDED OVER THE SHARK TANK.
JUMPING THROUGH THE OPENING, THE PHANTOM DIVES INTO THE AIR!


SEEING DIANA SUSPENDED OVER THE SHARK TANK, THE PHANTOM DIVES FROM THE HIGH WALL LEDGE--
THE PHANTOM HITS THE ROPE, HIS MOMENTUM CARRYING HIM AND DIANA--
---TO THE WALL LEDGE ON OTHER SIDE OF THE CHAMBER!
IT'S THE PHANTOM! SHOOT HIM DOWN! SHOOT HIM DOWN!
Tomorrow- The LEGEND of KRAKATAN

YOU CAME--JUST IN TIME! I-I THINK I'M GOING TO-- FAINT!
DON'T FAINT! NO TIME NOW. YOU CAN FAINT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT-- LATER!
AS THE PHANTOM AND DIANA REMAIN PERCHED ON THE LEDGE----
SHOOT HIM DOWN! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? SHOOT!
KABAI SINGH SHOUTS AT HIS GUARDS--
THE PHANTOM! IT IS THE LEGEND OF OUR ANCESTORS COME TRUE-- THAT ONE DAY THE PHANTOM WOULD COME TO KRAKATAN!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? COME BACK! FOOLS, COWARDS! COME BACK!
7-2
Tomorrow- NOBODY TOLD HIM.


WHEN KABAI SINGH ORDERS GUARDS TO SHOOT DOWN THE PHANTOM, THEY FLEE, SUPERSTITIOUSLY BELIEVING THE OLD LEGEND OF KRAKATAN ABOUT THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
CAREFUL-- THOSE FELLOWS LOOK HUNGRY.
THEY LOOK RAVENOUS--
DIANA AND THE PHANTOM LEAVE THE WALL LEDGE BY WAY OF THE SHARK TANK!
KILL THE MAN, SPARE THE GIRL. QUICKLY, DABI.
YES, MIGHTY KABAI.
DABI IS A NEWCOMER HERE AND KNOWS NOTHING OF THE RIDICULOUS PHANTOM LEGEND. HE'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF HIM!
7-3
Tomorrow-- SHARKS CAN'T LOSE

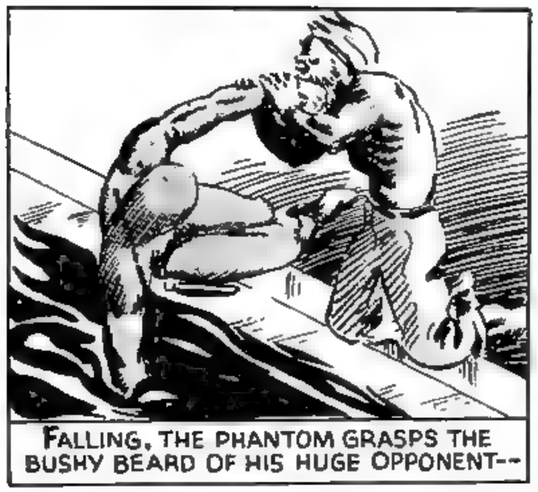

NOT MUCH FARTHER AND WE'LL BE OFF THIS TANK.
LOOK!
DABI, FOLLOWING KABAI SINGH'S ORDERS, CLIMBS TO MEET THE PHANTOM ON THE LEDGE OF THE SHARK TANK!
RATHER AN AWKWARD PLACE TO MEET ANYBODY. HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING, BUT I GATHER HE HASN'T COME HERE FOR A CHAT.
ONE OF US IS GOING TO LOSE. BUT EITHER WAY, THE SHARKS WIN.
7-4
CONTINUED—

The PHANTOM ADVANCES TO MEET DABAI SINGH'S GIANT GUARD ON THE NARROW LEDGE OF THE SHARK TANK.

INTO THE TANK WITH HIM, DABAI!
KABAI, RULER OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD, URGES HIS MAN ON.

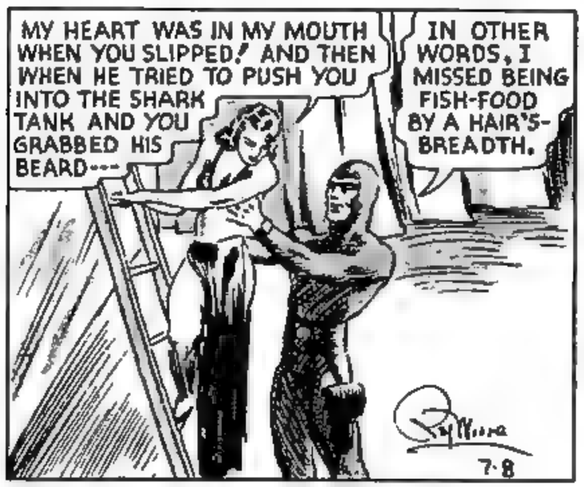
IN HIS ANXIETY, THE PHANTOM LOSES HIS FOOTING ON THE SLIPPERY LEDGE...

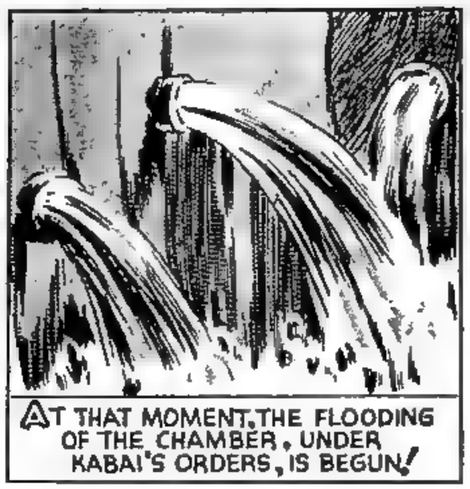
DABAI IS INSTANTLY UPON HIM!


FALLING, THE PHANTOM GRASPS THE BUSHY BEARD OF HIS HUGE OPPONENT--

E--YOW!
YOU SHOULD HAVE-- SHAVED THIS MORNING.

FLOOD THE CHAMBER! FLOOD THE CHAMBER! QUICK!
SEEING THE DEFEAT OF HIS MAN, KABAI RUSHES OUT OF THE CHAMBER, SLAMMING THE HEAVY DOOR BEHIND HIM--

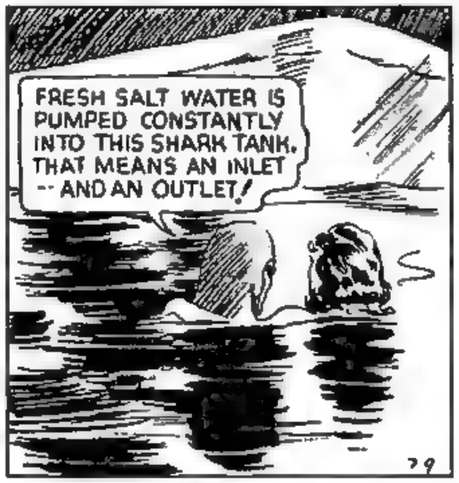

MY HEART WAS IN MY MOUTH WHEN YOU SLIPPED! AND THEN WHEN HE TRIED TO PUSH YOU INTO THE SHARK TANK AND YOU GRABBED HIS BEARD---
IN OTHER WORDS, I MISSED BEING FISH-FOOD BY A HAIR'S-BREADTH.
7-8


AT THAT MOMENT, THE FLOODING OF THE CHAMBER, UNDER KABAI'S ORDERS, IS BEGUN!

LOCKED!

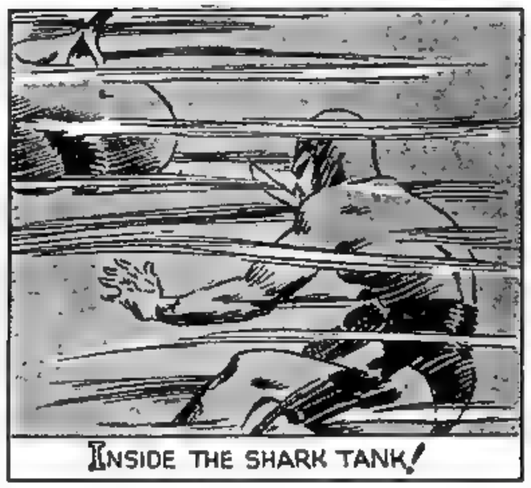
RING THE WARNING BELL THROUGHOUT KRAKATAN! I WANT EVERYONE TO SEE THIS GHOST WHO WALKS--THIS BOGEYMAN THE SINGH HAVE FEARED FOR CENTURIES--DIE LIKE ANY OTHER MAN!

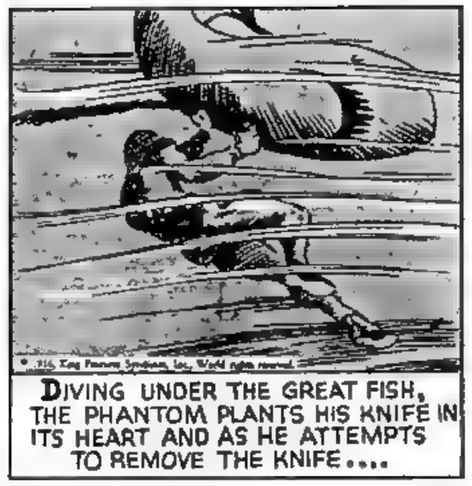
KABAI SINGH'S MEN FLOOD THE CHAMBER IN WHICH DIANA AND THE PHANTOM ARE TRAPPED.
THERE'S NO WAY OUT! THEY CAN'T TRAP US IN HERE--LIKE RATS!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE, BUT I THINK THERE IS ONE WAY OUT!

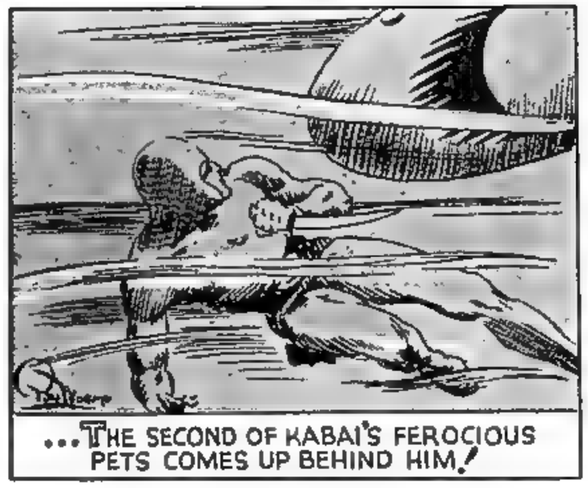

FRESH SALT WATER IS PUMPED CONSTANTLY INTO THIS SHARK TANK. THAT MEANS AN INLET --AND AN OUTLET!
7-9

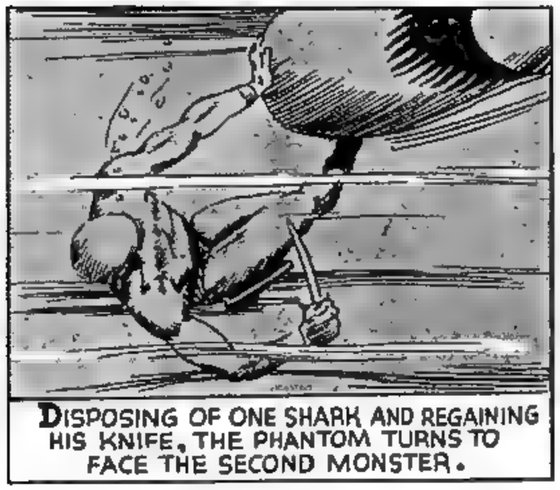
WHEN THIS WATER RISES AS HIGH AS THE TANK--THE SHARKS WILL SWIM OUT AND---
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DIANA. WE'RE GOING INTO THE SHARK TANK!

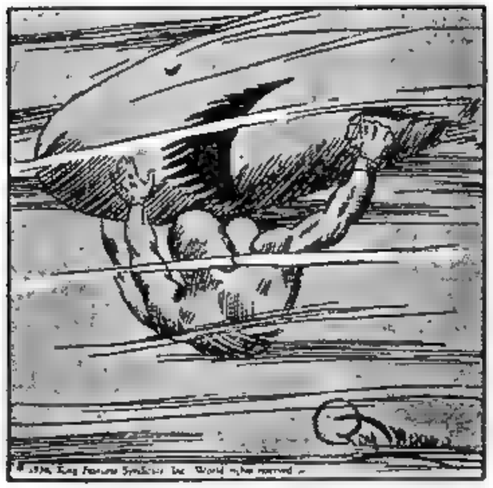
HANG ON THIS WALL UNTIL I SIGNAL TO YOU TO FOLLOW ME!
THE PHANTOM CLIMBS TO THE EDGE OF THE TANK!

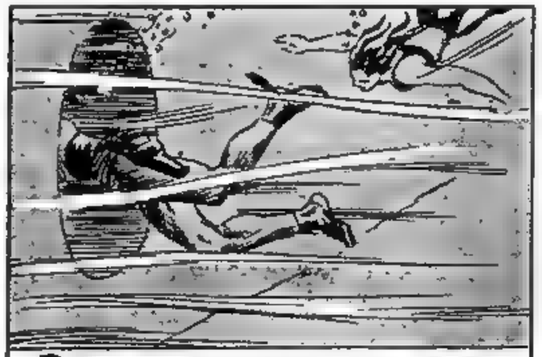

INSIDE THE SHARK TANK!


DIVING UNDER THE GREAT FISH, THE PHANTOM PLANTS HIS KNIFE IN ITS HEART AND AS HE ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE THE KNIFE....


...THE SECOND OF KABAI'S FEROCIOUS PETS COMES UP BEHIND HIM!

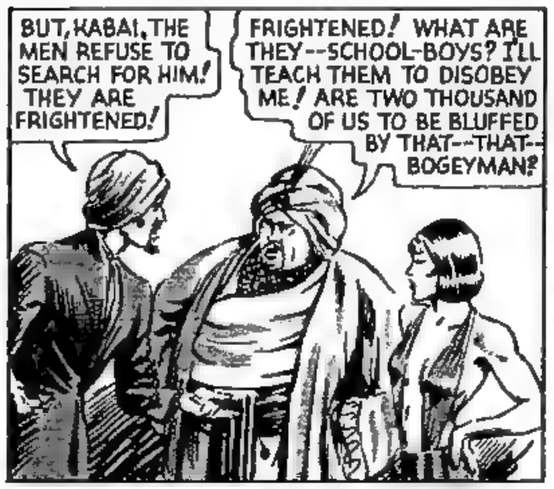

DISPOSING OF ONE SHARK AND REGAINING HIS KNIFE, THE PHANTOM TURNS TO FACE THE SECOND MONSTER.

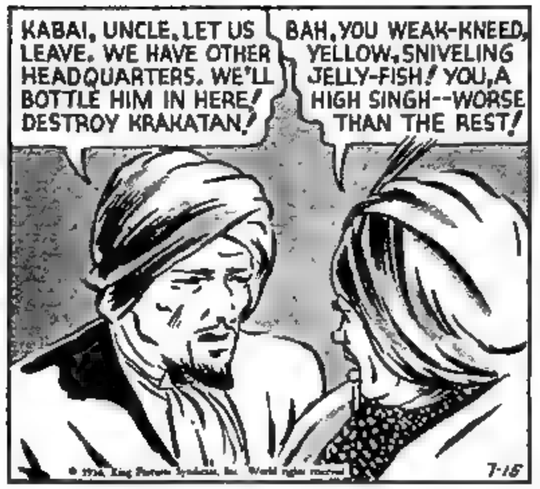



REENTERING THE SHARK TANK, THE PHANTOM HEADS INTO THE SALT WATER INLET--- THE ONLY ESCAPE FROM THE RAPIDLY FLOODING CHAMBER!
—Continued—

AND NOW WE SHALL SEE THE END OF THIS PHANTOM. IT'S TOO BAD THAT THE GIRL HAD TO GO WITH HIM, BEFORE WE COULD QUESTION HER ABOUT THE AMBERGRIS--BUT HIS DEATH IS WORTH THE PRICE!
GONE! THE SHARKS --DEAD! HOW COULD HE HAVE ESCAPED? IT--IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
NO MORE THAN I EXPECTED, GREAT KABAI.
EXPECTED! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SALA?
I MEAN THAT HE IS THE GHOST WHO WALKS, THE NEMESIS OF SINGH, AND THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM!
7-13
Tomorrow--NEMESIS IN A WATERPIPE

THE PHANTOM AND DIANA ESCAPE FROM THE FLOODED CHAMBER THROUGH THE SALT WATER INLET OF THE SHARK TANK.
WHEW! I'M SOAKED TO THE SKIN, BUT I GUESS I'M LUCKY NOT TO HAVE BEEN SOAKED TO A SHARK'S SKIN!
WE'RE NOT OUT OF HERE --YET.
7-14
WE'RE STILL 300 FEET UNDER THE JAVA SEA, SURROUNDED BY THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD AS WELL.
YOU ARE AMAZING! THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS IN AMERICA! HOW DID YOU FIND ME? WHAT IS THIS SINGH BROTHERHOOD? PLEASE TELL ME--WHO ARE YOU?
OR DO YOU STILL MIND MY ASKING SO MANY QUESTIONS?
NO, I DON'T MIND AND I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I DON'T ANSWER THEM.



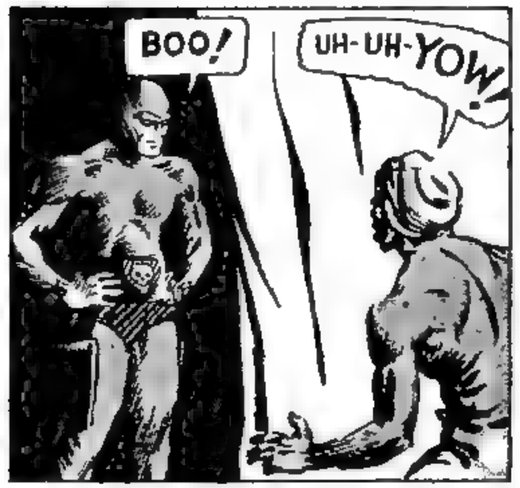


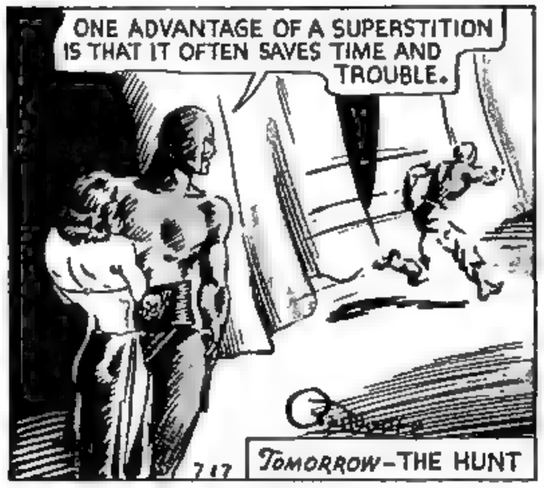
INFURIATED, KABAI SINGH LASHES HIS MEN.

KABAI APPROACHES A NEW RECRUIT, WHO KNOWS NOTHING OF THE PHANTOM LEGEND.

BUT--ARE YOU 400 YEARS OLD? ARE YOU THE LEGEND THAT I'VE HEARD REPEATED THROUGHOUT ASIA?
THE PHANTOM IS MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OLD. THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU.

BUT YOU MUST FIND WEAPONS. YOU CAN'T STAND THEM ALL, BARE-HANDED!
SH-SH--HERE'S ONE OF THEM NOW.
ONE OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD APPROACHES.

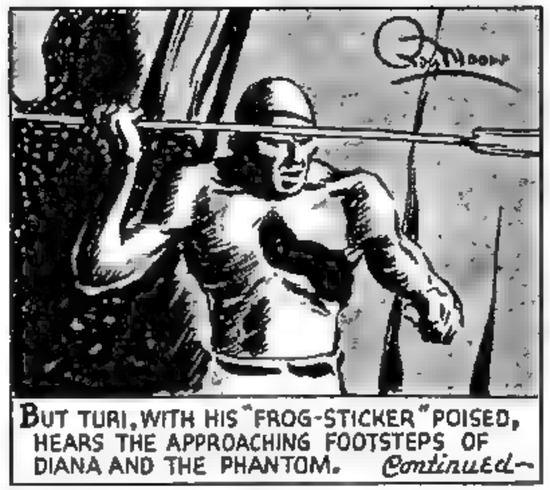

BOO!
UH-UH-YOW!


ONE ADVANTAGE OF A SUPERSTITION IS THAT IT OFTEN SAVES TIME AND TROUBLE.
7-17
TOMORROW—THE HUNT

THEN YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING AFTER HIM, YOURSELF! HOW BRAVE!
BAH--YOU ALWAYS LAUGH AT ME, SALA. I'LL CUT HIM IN HALF WITH LEAD! THAT IS--IF TURI DOESN'T GET HIM FIRST--WITH HIS FROG-STICKER.

I CAN HEAR THE OCEAN OVER OUR HEADS. HOW ON EARTH ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE?
AN INTERESTING QUESTION, DIANA. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT, MYSELF.

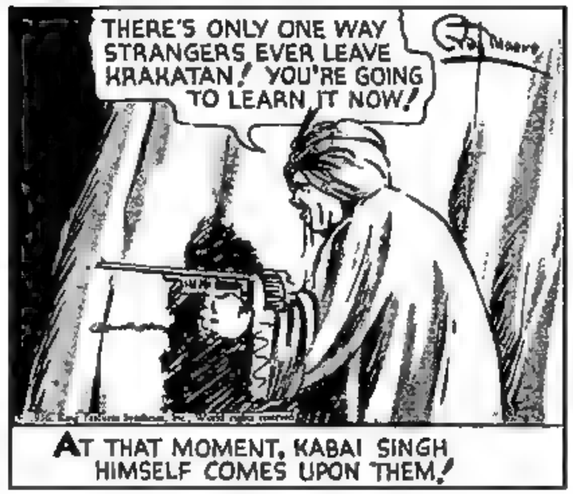
IF ONLY TURI DOESN'T GET HIM FIRST!
7-18


BUT TURI, WITH HIS "FROG-STICKER" POISED, HEARS THE APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS OF DIANA AND THE PHANTOM.
Continued—

In KRAKATAN, HEADQUARTERS OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD 300 FEET BELOW THE SEA.
LOOK OUT!

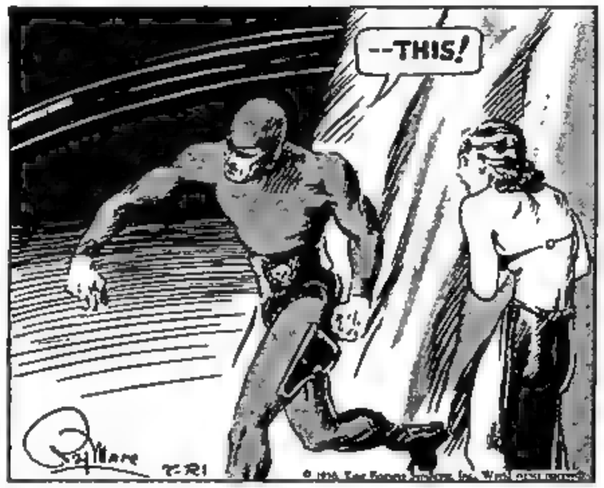
THE PHANTOM INSTANTLY DIVES AT HIS ASSAILANT!

HE ALMOST GOT YOU!
JUST AS LONG AS IT WAS "ALMOST"! NOW TO FIND KABAI SINGH AND LEARN HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.


THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY STRANGERS EVER LEAVE KRAKATAN! YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN IT NOW!
AT THAT MOMENT, KABAI SINGH HIMSELF COMES UPON THEM!

YOU COME OVER HERE, WOMAN. THIS GUN IS INTENDED FOR HIM ALONE!
I LIKE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD MUCH BETTER, THANK YOU.

THEN YOU BOTH DIE! TRY TO BLUFF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD, WILL YOU? TAKE---


--THIS!

--UH--!
Tomorrow- MAN OR DEVIL?

--WHAT ARE YOU--MAN OR DEVIL? 300 YEARS AGO, THE SINGH BURNED THE PHANTOM AT THE STAKE! ARE YOU--?
THE PHANTOM ALWAYS RETURNS KABAI SINGH! WHERE IS THE EXIT OF KRAKATAN?

I'LL TELL YOU NOTHING!
TELL ME OR I'LL DRIVE THIS FORK THROUGH THE WALL--AND YOUR NECK WITH IT!

UH--UH--TORPEDO TUBES --THIRD CHAMBER ON LEFT. I'M--I'M-- STRANGLING!
NO, YOU'RE NOT. IF THIS GIRL WERE NOT HERE, I'D FLOOD KRAKATAN --DESTROY IT FOREVER! BUT I'LL BE BACK!

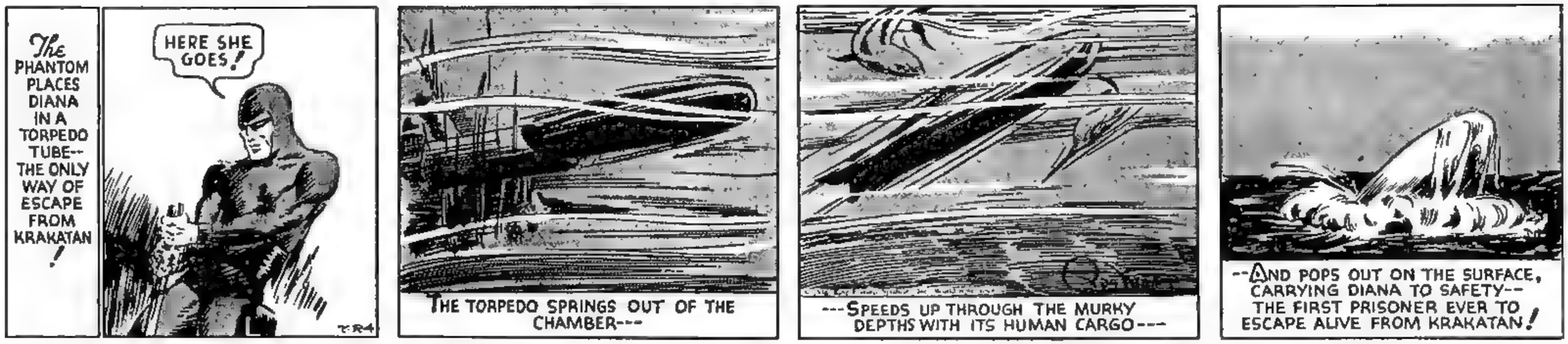
YOU HAVE YOUR WARNING, KABAI. AND THE PHANTOM ONLY WARNS ONCE!
Tomorrow--THE TUBES

THESE ARE THE TUBES, DIANA. I CAN SHOOT YOU TO THE SURFACE. CLIMB IN, QUICKLY!
BUT HOW ABOUT YOU? WHO WILL OPERATE THE TUBE FOR YOU?

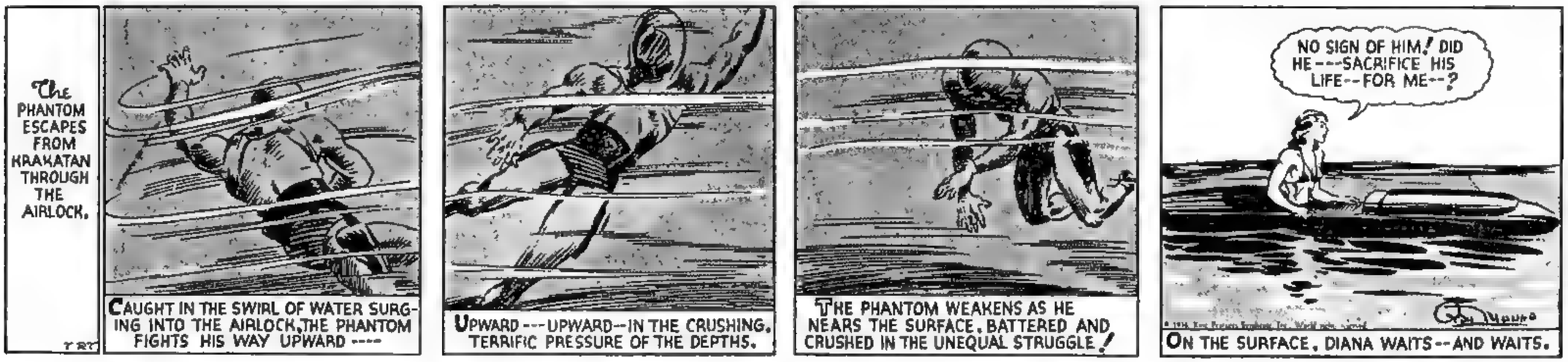
NO ONE. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY CHANCE THROUGH THE AIRLOCK--THE WAY I CAME.
BUT-EVEN IF YOU GET OUT--YOU CAN'T SWIM UP THROUGH 300 FEET OF WATER! YOU'LL BE CRUSHED! I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

YOUR BEING HERE WON'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER. BE A GOOD GIRL NOW--AND DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.
I--I--CAN'T-- WHILE YOU'RE HOLDING ME--

GOODBYE-- AND GOOD LUCK.
I'LL ACCEPT THE GOOD LUCK -- BUT NOT THE GOOD-BYE.

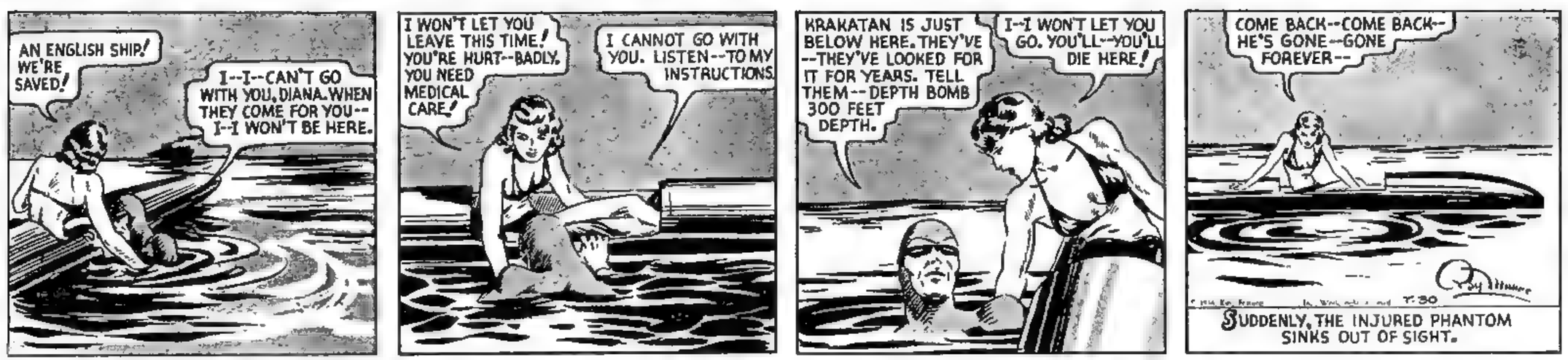

The PHANTOM PLACES DIANA IN A TORPEDO TUBE-- THE ONLY WAY OF ESCAPE FROM KRAKATAN!
HERE SHE GOES!
THE TORPEDO SPRINGS OUT OF THE CHAMBER---
---SPEEDS UP THROUGH THE MURKY DEPTHS WITH ITS HUMAN CARGO---
--AND POPS OUT ON THE SURFACE, CARRYING DIANA TO SAFETY-- THE FIRST PRISONER EVER TO ESCAPE ALIVE FROM KRAKATAN!

The PHANTOM HELPS DIANA ESCAPE FROM KRAKATAN, PROPELLING HER THROUGH A TORPEDO TUBE TO THE SURFACE OF THE SEA.
WELL,--SHE'S SAFE AT LEAST. HMM--A HELMET! THAT'LL BE SOME HELP-- BUT NOT ENOUGH---YET THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE.
THE PHANTOM RE-ENTERS THE AIRLOCK.
THREE HUNDRED FEET OF WATER BETWEEN ME AND THE SURFACE! THE PRESSURE WILL BE TERRIFIC AT THIS DEPTH!
I CAME DOWN HERE IN THE WHIRL-POOL. IT'S SUCTION MADE ENOUGH VACUUM TO COUNTERACT THE PRESSURE, BUT NOW--WELL-- HERE GOES!
TAKING HIS LIFE IN HIS HANDS, THE PHANTOM OPENS THE AIR-LOCK GATES! Continued


The PHANTOM ESCAPES FROM KRAKATAN THROUGH THE AIRLOCK.
CAUGHT IN THE SWIRL OF WATER SURGING INTO THE AIRLOCK, THE PHANTOM FIGHTS HIS WAY UPWARD ----
UPWARD ---UPWARD--IN THE CRUSHING, TERRIFIC PRESSURE OF THE DEPTHS.
THE PHANTOM WEAKENS AS HE NEARS THE SURFACE, BATTERED AND CRUSHED IN THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE!
NO SIGN OF HIM! DID HE---SACRIFICE HIS LIFE--FOR ME--?
ON THE SURFACE, DIANA WAITS--AND WAITS.

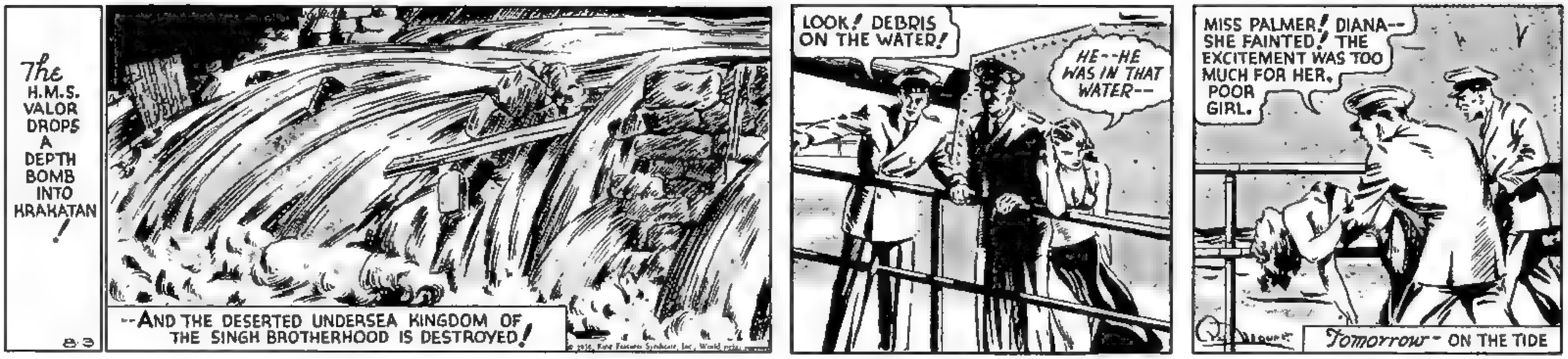
HE REACHED THE TOP! IS HE --IS HE---
WAITING FEARFULLY ON THE SURFACE, DIANA FINALLY SEES THE BODY OF THE PHANTOM EMERGE--
OH-FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU WERE---
--IT WAS -- HARD, DIANA. I--NEVER-- THOUGHT I'D REACH YOU. I'M--I'M IN A BAD WAY.
BY GEORGE-- THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE. MAY BE A HUMAN BEING, HORTON.
LET ME HAVE THE GLASSES.
MEANWHILE, A MILE NORTH, ON THE H.M.S VALOR-
IT'S A GIRL, IN SOME KIND OF CONTRAPTION! MAYBE, MAYBE IT'S HER!
tomorrow-EVACUATION

HE REACHED THE SURFACE, KABAI! WE CAN SEND MEN UP AFTER THEM!
WAIT! WHAT IS THAT IN THE BACKGROUND? SHIFT THE PERISCOPE NORTHWARD!
BELOW, IN KRAKATAN, KABAI SINGH WATCHES THE SURFACE THROUGH A PERISCOPE REFLECTOR.
THE H.M.S. VALOR! COMING THIS WAY! SOUND THE GENERAL ALARM.
THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD--FLEEING FROM AN ENEMY SHIP? FOR SHAME, GREAT KABAI!
MIND YOUR TONGUE, SALA, OR YOU'LL BE LEFT. WE'RE TRAPPED HERE LIKE RATS. WE'VE GOT TO EVACUATE--LEAVE KRAKATAN.
PHANTOM? NO! HE'S THROUGH. IT'S THE GIRL! SHE'LL GIVE OUR LOCATION--AND THAT MEANS--DEPTH BOMBS!
STILL AFRAID OF THE PHANTOM?


AN ENGLISH SHIP! WE'RE SAVED!
I--I--CAN'T GO WITH YOU, DIANA. WHEN THEY COME FOR YOU--I--I WON'T BE HERE.
I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE THIS TIME! YOU'RE HURT--BADLY. YOU NEED MEDICAL CARE!
I CANNOT GO WITH YOU. LISTEN--TO MY INSTRUCTIONS.
KRAKATAN IS JUST BELOW HERE. THEY'VE --THEY'VE LOOKED FOR IT FOR YEARS. TELL THEM--DEPTH BOMB 300 FEET DEPTH.
I--I WON'T LET YOU GO. YOU'LL--YOU'LL DIE HERE!
COME BACK--COME BACK--HE'S GONE--GONE FOREVER--
SUDDENLY, THE INJURED PHANTOM SINKS OUT OF SIGHT.

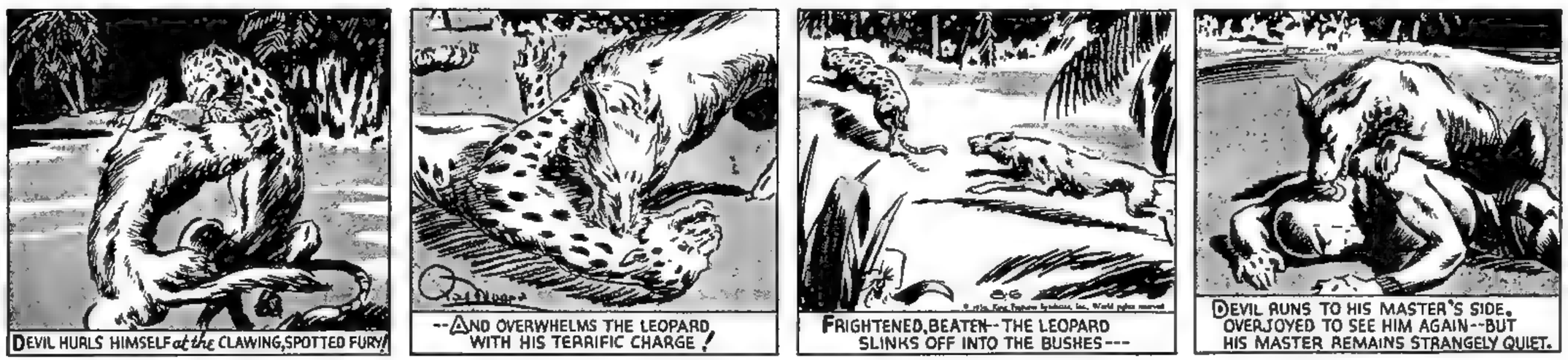
THREE RINGS! THE FINAL SIGNAL!
WE MUST HURRY TO THE TUNNEL!
THROUGHOUT UNDERSEA KRAKATAN, THE WARNING BELL RINGS.
I KNEW WE'D NEED THIS TUNNEL SOMEDAY. ACHMED, SEE THAT THE GATE IS CLOSED IN ONE MINUTE. ANYONE LEFT BEHIND WILL STAY IN KRAKATAN!
THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD FLEES FROM THEIR DOOMED HEADQUARTERS INTO AN EXIT TUNNEL BUILT INTO THE OCEAN FLOOR!
SAVE HIM! SAVE HIM! I WON'T LEAVE HIM!
SHE'S HYSTERICAL. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW, LADY.
ON THE SURFACE, DIANA IS RESCUED BY A CREW FROM THE H.M.S. VALOR.

WE'VE REPEATED THE RADIO WARNING, CAPTAIN. BUT THERE'S NO ANSWER.
THAT MEANS THEY'VE DESERTED THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND ESCAPED! THAT GIVES US A CHANCE TO CLEAN UP THAT PLACE WITHOUT LOSS OF LIFE!
PROCEED WITH DEPTH BOMB, MANLY.
RIGHT, CAPTAIN HORTON.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND! HE'S IN THAT WATER. HE WOULDN'T COME WITH ME! IT WILL KILL HIM!
NOW TRY TO SLEEP, MISS PALMER. THERE'S NO MORE DANGER. NO ONE CAN HURT YOU. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
PROCEED!
AYE, SIR!
AND A DEPTH BOMB IS DROPPED INTO KRAKATAN


The H.M.S. VALOR DROPS A DEPTH BOMB INTO KRAKATAN!
--AND THE DESERTED UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD IS DESTROYED!
8-3
LOOK! DEBRIS ON THE WATER!
HE--HE WAS IN THAT WATER--
MISS PALMER! DIANA--SHE FAINTED! THE EXCITEMENT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER. POOR GIRL.
Tomorrow - ON THE TIDE

A FIGURE IS WASHED UPON THE SHORE OF LUNTOK.
THAT--WATER PRESSURE--GOT ME! THANK HEAVENS --FOR THAT--STRONG TIDE--
SERIOUSLY INJURED, THE PHANTOM STAGGERS ONTO THE SAND---
MY--CHEST--
8-4
IN THE BUSHES FRINGING THE BEACH, A HUNGRY SPOTTED LEOPARD WATCHES THE UNCONSCIOUS FORM!

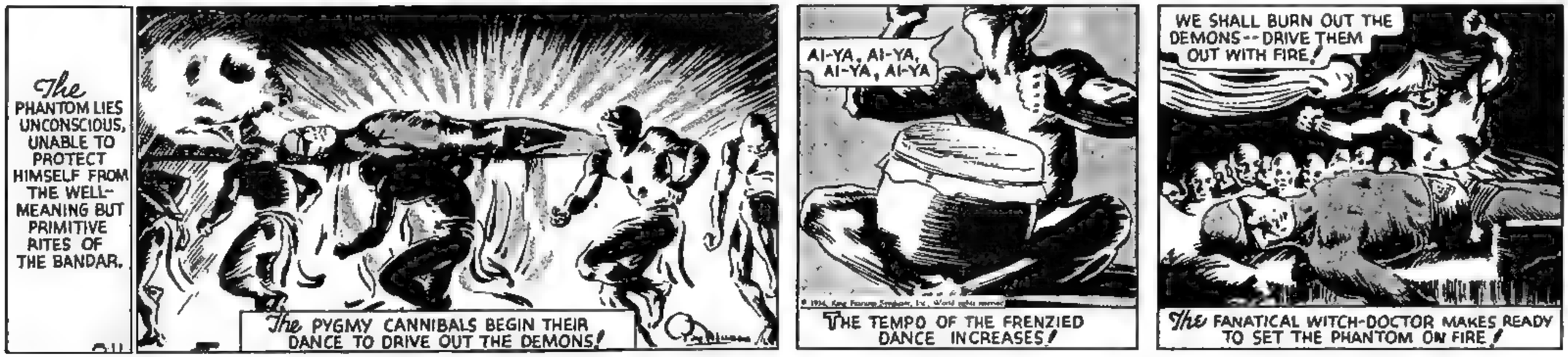
As THE PHANTOM LIES ON THE BEACH, INJURED AND UNCON-- SCIOUS--
The HUNGRY SPOTTED LEOPARD CAUTIOUSLY APPROACHES THE HELPLESS FIGURE.
A BLACK FORM STIRS THE BUSHES. IT IS DEVIL, THE PHANTOM'S TAMED WOLF, SEARCHING FOR HIS MASTER!
HIS KEEN NOSE CATCHES THE FAMILIAR SCENT!
ENRAGED, THE LEOPARD LEAPS AT HIS INTRUDER WHO WOULD ROB HIM OF HIS PREY!


DEVIL HURLS HIMSELF at the CLAWING, SPOTTED FURY!
--AND OVERWHELMS THE LEOPARD WITH HIS TERRIFIC CHARGE!
FRIGHTENED, BEATEN--THE LEOPARD SLINKS OFF INTO THE BUSHES---
DEVIL RUNS TO HIS MASTER'S SIDE. OVERJOYED TO SEE HIM AGAIN--BUT HIS MASTER REMAINS STRANGELY QUIET.

The PHANTOM LIES UNCONSCIOUS ON THE BEACH, NOT KNOWING THAT DEVIL, HIS TAMED WOLF, HAS SAVED HIM FROM A SPOTTED LEOPARD.
STILL--NO WELCOMING WORD OR PAT FROM HIS MASTER--
--AND DEVIL HURRIES AWAY, THROUGH THE TRACKLESS JUNGLE--
-- INTO THE VILLAGE OF THE BANDAR, A TRIBE OF PYGMY CANNIBALS.
IT'S DEVIL! SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WE SHALL FOLLOW HIM!

THE BANDAR, A TRIBE OF PYGMY CANNIBALS, FOLLOW DEVIL THROUGH THE JUNGLE---
THE PHANTOM-RETURNED!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
HE LIES STILL-- AS THOUGH POSSESSED OF DEMONS.
WE SHALL TAKE HIM TO OUR WITCH-DOCTOR --WHO WILL DRIVE OUT THE DEMONS WITH THE FLAMING TORCH!
IMPROVISING A CRUDE LITTER, THE BANDAR PYGMIES CARRY THE PHANTOM INTO A JUNGLE UNKNOWN AND UNVISITED BY WHITE MEN!

The PHANTOM, INJURED FROM HIS DEEP-SEA EXPERIENCE, AND STILL UNCONSCIOUS, IS CARRIED INTO THE JUNGLE BY THE BANDAR, A TRIBE OF PYGMY CANNIBALS.
The HOME OF THE PHANTOM!
HE IS POSSESSED OF DEMONS! GET THE WITCH-DOCTOR!
THE FLAMING TORCH OF THE WITCH-DOCTOR WILL BURN OUT THE DEMONS.
HIS ANIMAL, DEVIL, LED US TO HIM ON THE SHORE. HE IS POSSESSED.
I WILL DRIVE THE DEMONS OUT OF OUR FRIEND. THEY FEAR MY FIRE.
tomorrow— BACKWOODS MEDICINE


The PHANTOM LIES UNCONSCIOUS, UNABLE TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM THE WELL-MEANING BUT PRIMITIVE RITES OF THE BANDAR.
The PYGMY CANNIBALS BEGIN THEIR DANCE TO DRIVE OUT THE DEMONS!
AI-YA, AI-YA, AI-YA, AI-YA
THE TEMPO OF THE FRENZIED DANCE INCREASES!
WE SHALL BURN OUT THE DEMONS--DRIVE THEM OUT WITH FIRE!
The FANATICAL WITCH-DOCTOR MAKES READY TO SET THE PHANTOM ON FIRE!

AS THE PRIMITIVE AND FANATICAL WITCH-DOCTOR PREPARES TO SET THE PHANTOM AFLAME TO DRIVE OUT DEMONS--
GET RID OF THE ANIMAL! DESTROY IT!
DEVIL, THE PHANTOM'S TAMED WOLF, HOLDS OFF THE WITCH-DOCTOR.

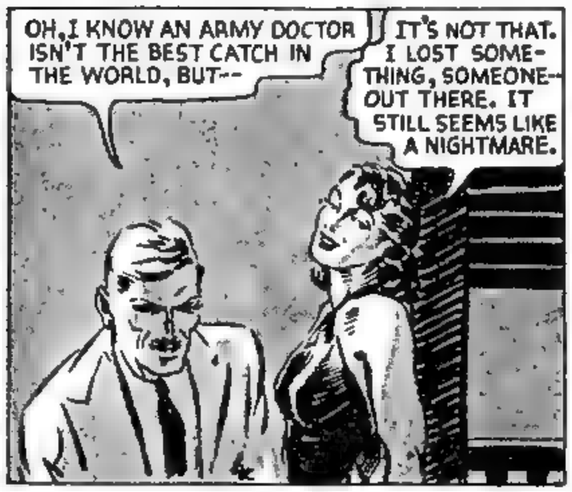
TWO BANDAR HURRIEDLY STRING THEIR POISONED ARROWS!

WAIT--JUST A MINUTE--HMM--GOOD OLD DEVIL, YOU SAVED ME FROM SOME RATHER UN-SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL CARE!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE PHANTOM REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!

DO NOT BE ANGRY. I TRIED TO DRIVE FORTH THE---
YES, I KNOW. YOU MEANT WELL. BUT I NEED WHITE MAN'S MAGIC. BRING ME A WHITE DOCTOR, MEN OF BANDAR!

THE SHIP FROM WHICH YOU WERE KIDNAPPED WAS NOT DESTROYED BY THE SINGH PLANE,--JUST DISABLED. THEY FIXED THEIR RADIO AND--
I SEE. I WONDERED HOW YOU HAPPENED TO BE LOOKING FOR ME.

DIANA, I HARDLY HOPED YOU'D EVER COME BACK TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD. NOW THAT YOU HAVE--
PLEASE, MELVILLE--


OH, I KNOW AN ARMY DOCTOR ISN'T THE BEST CATCH IN THE WORLD, BUT--
IT'S NOT THAT. I LOST SOME-THING, SOMEONE--OUT THERE. IT STILL SEEMS LIKE A NIGHTMARE.

I'VE NEVER KNOWN HIS NAME, NEVER SEEN HIS FACE, NEVER KNOWN WHETHER HE WAS A MAN--OR--BUT I LOVED HIM. HE--HE GAVE HIS LIFE--FOR ME.

LEAVING DIANA, CAPTAIN MELVILLE HORTON RETURNS TO HIS OWN COTTAGE.
WHAT A MARVELOUS GIRL! IN LOVE WITH A FIGMENT OF HER IMAGINATION--THE PHANTOM, A MAN WHO NEVER EXISTED!
THAT EXPERIENCE IN KRAKATAN HAS UNNERVED HER. SHE PICKED UP SOME OF THEIR SUPERSTITIONS, I SUPPOSE.
WITH REST, SHE'LL FORGET ALL THAT. THEN, PERHAPS, SHE'LL LISTEN TO ME--THOUGH I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TO OFFER.
WHAT THE--UH--
LATER, AS HORTON IS HALF-ASLEEP, SMALL, QUIET FIGURES SUDDENLY LEAP UPON HIM!

UH--THAT BLINDFOLD--AND GAG! ER--WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
MY FRIENDS BROUGHT YOU TO ME, CAPTAIN HORTON. I AM ILL. I NEED A DOCTOR.
I'M AN ARMY DOCTOR, NOT A CIVILIAN--WHY, THESE ARE THE BANDAR--CANNIBAL PYGMIES!
VERY NICE LITTLE PEOPLE, EXCEPT WHEN HUNGRY, CAPTAIN.
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! UNETHICAL! I REFUSE TO MOVE A HAND!
CAPTAIN, IT'S ABOUT LUNCH-TIME FOR THE BANDAR. THEY LIKE ARMY OFFICERS. BETTER FED THAN PRIVATES, YOU KNOW. IF I GIVE THE WORD--
HMM--I--ER--LET ME FEEL YOUR PULSE.
CONTINUED—

CAPTAIN MELVILLE HORTON, ARMY DOCTOR, IS KIDNAPPED BY THE BANDAR PYGMIES AND BROUGHT DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE TO AID THE INJURED PHANTOM.
I DON'T NEED AN X-RAY TO DIAGNOSE YOUR CASE. YOU NEED AN OPERATION AT ONCE!
I--I THOUGHT SO. WELL, GET STARTED.
BUT-I CAN'T. I HAVE NO ANESTHETIC HERE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT ONE. TOO SERIOUS, TOO PAINFUL.
ANESTHETIC? GURAN.
8-17
GURAN. THE WHITE DOCTOR NEEDS AN ANESTHETIC. HIT SHARPLY, CLEANLY, ONCE! RIGHT HERE!
--UH--
JUNGLE ANESTHETICS!

GET ME HOT WATER. HOT WATER.
HERE, A COUPLE OF YOU-- HOLD OFF THIS--WOLF!
DEVIL, THINKING HARM IS MEANT FOR HIS MASTER---
8/18
--GROWLS AND STRAINS ON HIS LEASH, HIS HOWLS SOUNDING THROUGH THE--
--NIGHT, AS HORTON BEGINS THE OPERATION IN THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE UNKNOWN JUNGLE!

SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE CAPTAIN HORTON'S OPERATION ON THE PHANTOM.
YOU DID A GOOD JOB, HORTON. I FEEL FINE.
FOR A TIME THERE, I ALMOST GAVE YOU UP. YET, HERE YOU ARE HALE AND HEARTY! YOUR VITALITY IS AMAZING!
AS AN ARMY DOCTOR, YOU CAN'T ACCEPT A FEE, I KNOW. BUT I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS RUBY NECKLACE--AS A TOKEN OF MY THANKS. IT'S VERY OLD, VERY VALUABLE.
IT'S--MAGNIFICENT!
YOUR WIFE--OR SWEETHEART--WILL LIKE IT, I'M SURE. NOW, HORTON, YOU'RE TO BE TAKEN BACK THE WAY YOU CAME--BLINDFOLDED, BY THE PYGMIES.
YOU ARE NEVER TO MENTION THIS INCIDENT TO ANYONE. YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE. I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT.
FIRST TIME I EVER HAD A MASKED PATIENT, AND A WITCH-DOCTOR AS A NURSE. GOOD-BYE.
8-19

WHY--IT'S MELVILLE--CAPTAIN HORTON!
MEL--WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN? TWO SEARCHING PARTIES ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!
I'VE BEEN--AWAY. SECRET BUSINESS. DID YOU MISS ME, DIANA?
MISS YOU? I WAS FRANTIC! IT'S SUCH A RELIEF TO SEE YOU BACK. SAFE--AND WELL.
DIANA--YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
8-20
OH, IT SOUNDS FOOLISH, BUT YOU DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER I'D REFUSED TO--MARRY YOU--AND--I WAS SILLY ENOUGH TO THINK IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.
TOMORROW-THE RUBY NECKLACE

DIANA, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU. FOR THE FOURTEENTH TIME, WILL YOU MARRY ME?
PLEASE, MELVILLE, I--I LIKE YOU. BUT--I--I HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO. YOU KNOW, IMPORTANT WORK.

BESIDES, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE--THE MEMORY OF A MAN WHO DIED--TO SAVE ME. SO YOU SEE, I CAN'T SAY YES, NOW. MAYBE--SOMEDAY--

SOMEDAY! THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR! DIANA, I HAVE SOMETHING HERE I WANT YOU TO WEAR.
A RUBY NECKLACE! IT'S--LOVELY! BUT--NO--I COULDN'T TAKE IT, MEL.
8-21

NO STRINGS ON IT, DIANA. PLEASE WEAR IT--JUST AS A KEEPSAKE, A SORT OF A FORGET-ME-NOT.
TOMORROW--THE KISS

DEVIL, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I'VE BEEN MISSING A LOT IN LIFE--AND HER NAME IS DIANA. THERE'S NOTHING IN THE OLD OATH TO KEEP ME FROM PAYING A SOCIAL CALL.

SHE'LL PROBABLY BE SURPRISED TO SEE ME. THE LAST TIME SHE SAW ME, I'D SWALLOWED MOST OF THE JAVA SEA AND WAS ON THE POINT OF TURNING INTO FISH-FOOD.

DIANA, HOW ABOUT A KISS? JUST A LITTLE ONE, IN TRADE FOR THAT NECKLACE. PLEASE.
WELL-I NO--NO-MEL--NO-
8-22

CONTINUED--

POOR DIANA STILL BELIEVES THE PHANTOM IS DEAD.

The PHANTOM LEAVES THE MILITARY SETTLEMENT, DISAPPEARING QUIETLY INTO THE JUNGLE.

MEL, I'M GOING TO PESTER YOU TO DEATH UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO!
OH-OH--FEMININE CURIOSITY. OH, I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HARM IN TELLING. IT WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE.

KIDNAPPED BY PIGMY CANNIBALS TO PERFORM AN OPERATION BY FIRELIGHT ON A MASKED MAN IN THE MIDST OF THE JUNGLE--WITH A WILD WITCH-DOCTOR FOR A HELPER.
8-26

MASKED MAN! WHERE! WHAT--WAS HE LIKE?
DECENT FELLOW. AMAZING VITALITY. DEATH'S HEADS ALL OVER THE PLACE. ON HIS BELT-- ON HIS RING. NEVER SAW HIS FACE.

IT--CAN'T BE--
--HIM--OH--
DIANA!
AND DIANA SUDDENLY FAINTS.

I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, MELVILLE. YOU MUST TELL ME MORE. LEAD ME TO HIM!
IMPOSSIBLE. I WAS BLINDFOLDED ALL THE WAY. DIANA, THERE'S A CALL FOR ME AT HEADQUARTERS NOW. I'LL BE BACK.

THAT NATIVE UPRISING ALONG THE NEGLAMI RIVER HAS FINALLY COME, HORTON. I CAN SPARE ONLY TWENTY-FIVE MEN. YOU KNOW YOUR ORDERS. GOOD LUCK.
TWENTY-FIVE --VERY GOOD, SIR.

8-27

IT'S A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT, DIANA. I MAY NOT COME BACK. IF I DON'T, REMEMBER--I LOVE YOU.
GOODBYE--AND GOODLUCK, MEL!
TOMORROW- GRAPE-VINE

TELL THE REAR GUARD TO KEEP THEIR EYES OPEN. WE'RE WITHIN SHOOTING DISTANCE OF THE NEGLAMI NOW.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

SO OUR CAPTAIN DOCTOR HORTON IS GOING TO PUT DOWN THE NEGLAMI UPRISING WITH TWENTY-FIVE MEN! FOOLS!
THROUGH THE JUNGLE GRAPE-VINE, THE PHANTOM RECEIVES INFORMATION.

HORTON--THE MAN DIANA LOVES. HE'S FACING CERTAIN DEATH. THEY'LL BE MASSACRED! WITH HIM OUT OF THE WAY, DIANA AND I---

DEVIL, I'M JEALOUS OF THAT FELLOW, BUT DIANA LOVES HIM. WE CAN'T LET THOSE WILD MEN MAKE MINCE-MEAT OUT OF HIM! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM BACK TO HER, SAFE AND SOUND!
AMBUSH

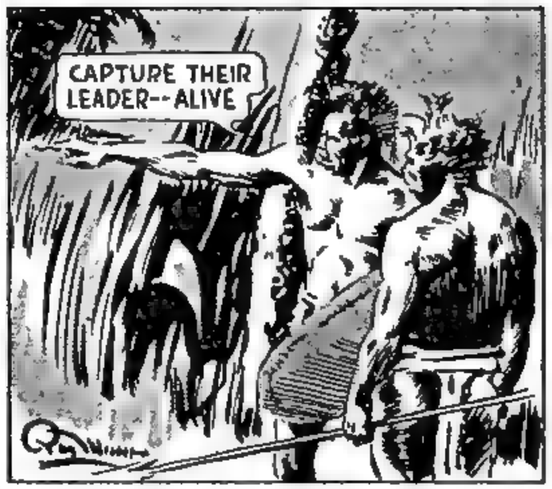
SILENTLY, WELL-HIDDEN, THE NEGLAMI AWAIT THE APPROACH OF HORTON AND HIS SMALL DETACHMENT.

I DON'T LIKE THIS SILENCE, SERGEANT. WE HAVEN'T SEEN A NATIVE ANYWHERE. GIVE THE ORDER FOR PISTOLS-- JUST IN CASE.

SUDDENLY, WITH BLOOD-CURDLING YELLS, THE NEGLAMI LEAP OUT OF THE BUSHES, COMPLETELY SURROUNDING THE SMALL DETACHMENT!
Continued

CAPTAIN HORTON'S DETACHMENT IS AMBUSHED BY THE NEGLAMI WARRIORS!
THERE'S MILLIONS-- OF THE DEVILS!
THICKER THAN-- FLEAS!

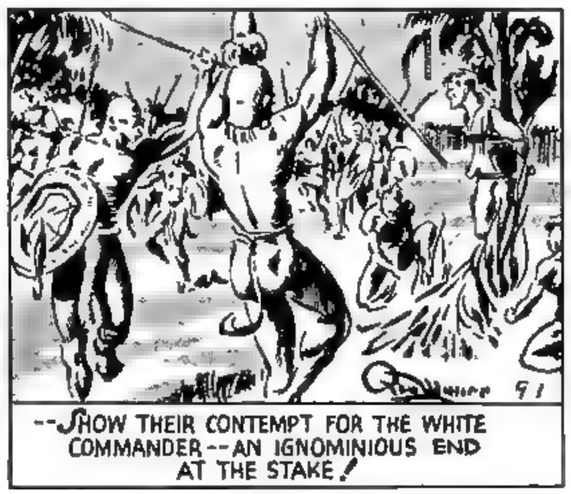
HORTON AND HIS MEN FIGHT COURAGEOUSLY AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS!

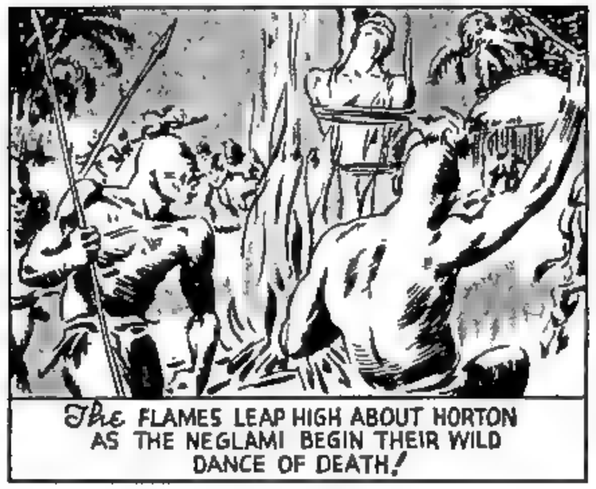

CAPTURE THEIR LEADER--ALIVE

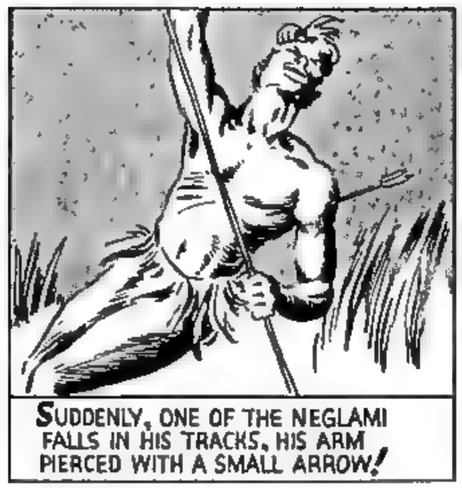
8-31
AND HORTON'S HORSE IS BROUGHT DOWN!

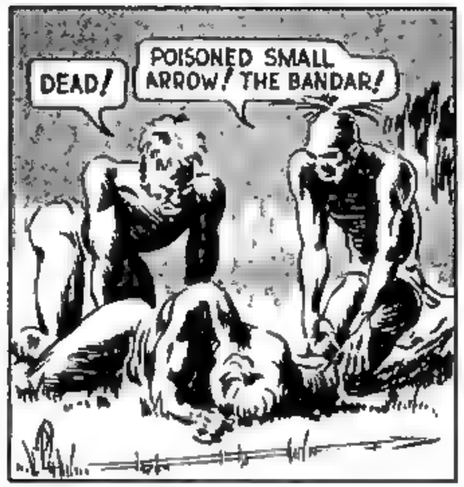
HORTON'S ENTIRE DETACHMENT IS DESTROYED BY THE NEGLAMI--BUT HORTON, HIMSELF, IS TAKEN ALIVE!

HILARIOUS WITH VICTORY, MADDENED WITH BLOODLUST THE NEGLAMI---

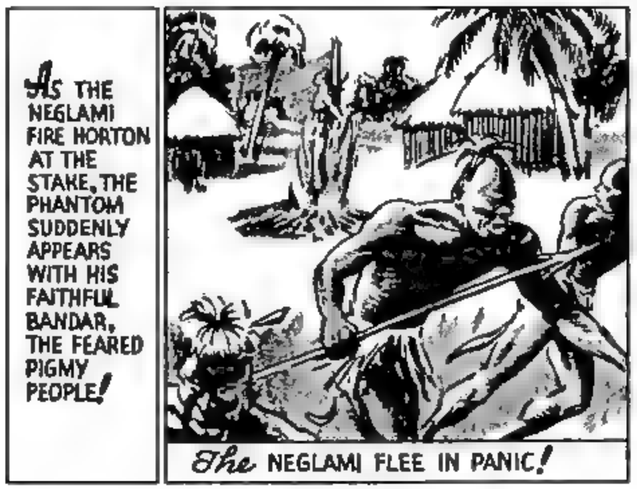

--SHOW THEIR CONTEMPT FOR THE WHITE COMMANDER--AN IGNOMINIOUS END AT THE STAKE!


The FLAMES LEAP HIGH ABOUT HORTON AS THE NEGLAMI BEGIN THEIR WILD DANCE OF DEATH!


SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE NEGLAMI FALLS IN HIS TRACKS, HIS ARM PIERCED WITH A SMALL ARROW!


DEAD!
POISONED SMALL ARROW! THE BANDAR!

AND THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY EMERGES FROM THE JUNGLE FOLLOWED BY HIS FAITHFUL BANDAR, THE FEARED PIGMY CANNIBALS---
THE POISON PEOPLE!


AS THE NEGLAMI FIRE HORTON AT THE STAKE, THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY APPEARS WITH HIS FAITHFUL BANDAR, THE FEARED PIGMY PEOPLE!
The NEGLAMI FLEE IN PANIC!

THE PHANTOM LEAPS THROUGH THE FLAMES--

HE'S STILL ALIVE, DEVIL!

NEGLAMI RAN LIKE PIGS. WE WOULD PURSUE THEM.
THIS IS A RESCUE PARTY, NOT A HUNTING EXPEDITION, GURAN. THIS CHAP'S IN A BAD WAY. WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY!

The PHANTOM AND HIS FAITHFUL BANDAR RESCUE HORTON FROM DEATH AT THE STAKE.
I SHALL PERFORM INCANTATIONS AND SAVE HIM.
NEVER MIND, THE MUMBO-JUMBO, GURAN. WE GOT HIM IN TIME. HE'S NOT BADLY BURNED. GET OINTMENTS.
A LITTLE OF THIS STUFF WILL MAKE HIM AS GOOD AS NEW.
I SAW YOU--JUST BEFORE I FAINTED. WHAT--WHAT IS THIS STUFF? IT'S MARVELOUS.
SOME OF GURAN'S HOME RECIPES. HE'S ONE WITCH-DOCTOR THAT HAS A LITTLE COMMON SENSE ALONG WITH HIS NONSENSE.
ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO, YOU WERE MY PATIENT. NOW I'M YOURS. YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
RETURNING FAVORS, CAPTAIN DOCTOR HORTON. YOU DID THE SAME FOR ME, YOU KNOW.

WHY--THESE CHESTS CONTAIN FABULOUS WEALTH!
IT'S BEEN ACCUMULATING HORTON. THIS CHEST OF GOLD COINS IS FOR-- DIANA--TO MAKE HER WORK POSSIBLE.
DIANA! YOU KNOW HER! BY GEORGE, YOU ARE--
ORDINARILY, I NEVER FIGHT THE JUNGLE PEOPLE AGAINST EACH OTHER. I DID IT TO SAVE YOU FOR HER.
I CAN TRUST YOU. SEE THAT SHE GETS THIS. SHE LOVES YOU. YOU ARE A LUCKY MAN.
BUT--SHE DOESN'T. I MEAN, YOU---
NEVER MIND. I SAW EVERYTHING. IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. NOW GET SOME REST. YOU ARE TO RETURN IN THE MORNING-- BLINDFOLDED AS BEFORE-- TO HER.

GOODBYE, HORTON. WE MAY NEVER MEET AGAIN. YOU WILL BE LED THROUGH THE JUNGLE UNTIL YOU REACH FAMILIAR GROUND.
SHALL I TELL DIANA THAT--

TELL DIANA NOTHING. SHE IS NOT TO KNOW WHERE THIS MONEY COMES FROM. GOODBYE.
BUT, MAN, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
9 7

IT'S YOU SHE LOVES. CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU! YOU!
BUT THE PHANTOM HAS GONE.

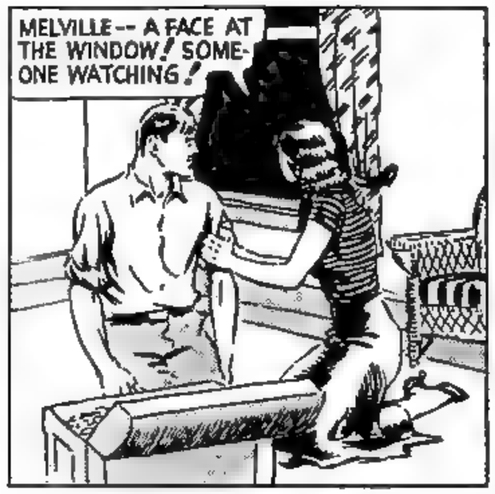
Tomorrow- DIANA AND THE EYES

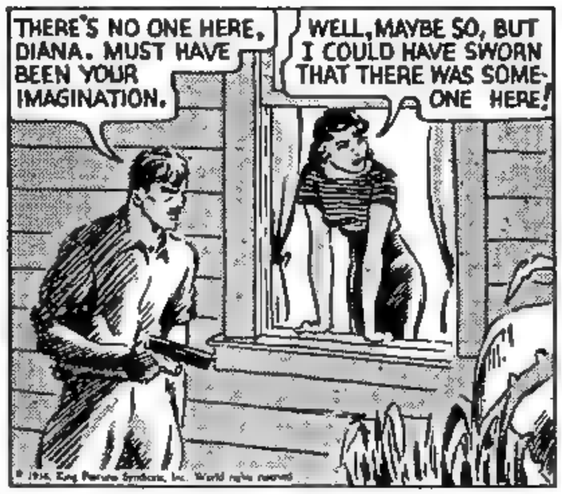
THE WHOLE COLONY IS TALKING OF YOUR MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM THE NEGLAMI. YOU ARE THE ONLY SURVIVOR, YOU KNOW.
YES. I KNOW. MY POOR MEN.

AND THIS IS THE SURPRISE, DIANA. IT'S FOR YOU, TO EQUIP YOUR EXPEDITION. DON'T ASK ME WHERE IT CAME FROM, BECAUSE I AM HONOR-BOUND NOT TO TELL.
FOR ME! BUT-- WHO? WHY?

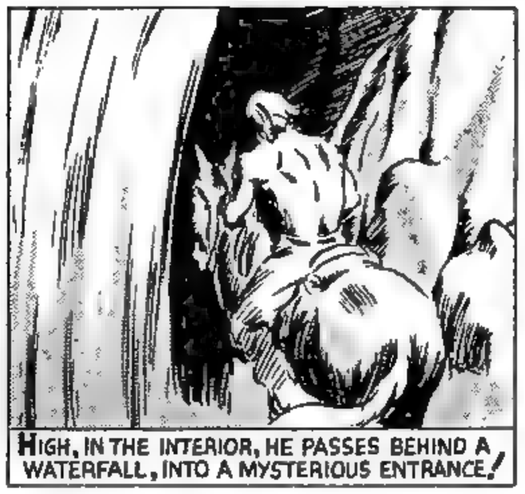
THERE IS ENOUGH MONEY HERE TO FINANCE YOU SO THAT YOU CAN GET AT THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT.
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU ESCAPED --AND WHERE THIS MONEY CAME FROM.
9-8

UNKNOWN TO DIANA AND HORTON, THEY ARE BEING WATCHED BY HOSTILE EYES!


MELVILLE -- A FACE AT THE WINDOW! SOMEONE WATCHING!


THERE'S NO ONE HERE, DIANA. MUST HAVE BEEN YOUR IMAGINATION.
WELL, MAYBE SO, BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE!

9-9
BUT DIANA WAS NOT MISTAKEN! A HORSEMAN DASHES FROM THE COLONY INTO THE MOUNTAINS-


HIGH, IN THE INTERIOR, HE PASSES BEHIND A WATERFALL, INTO A MYSTERIOUS ENTRANCE!

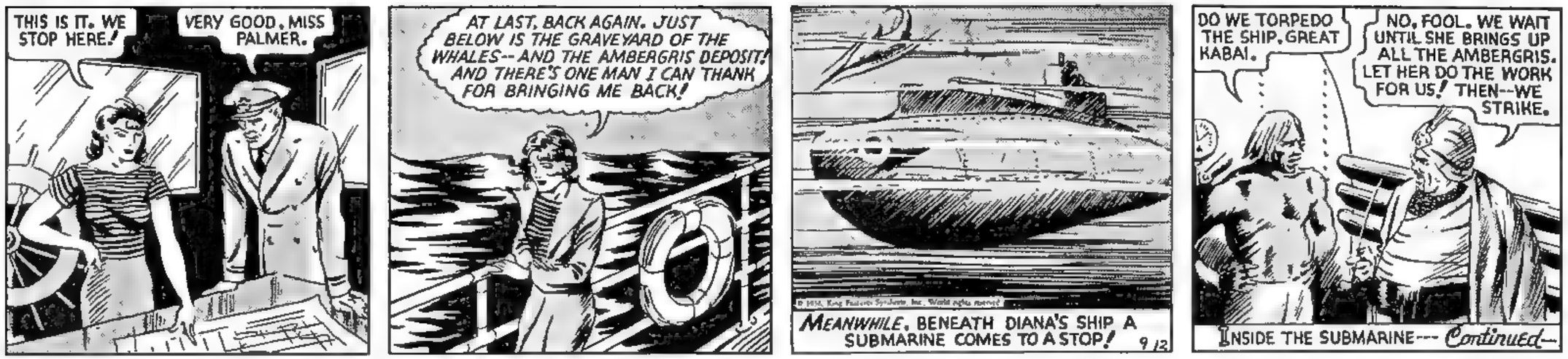
THE SPY FROM THE MILITARY COLONY RETURNS WITH NEWS OF THE PALMER GIRL.
GOOD, SALA MY DOVE. SHOW HIM IN.
9/10
ONCE MORE -- KABAI SINGH, RULER OF THE DEADLY SINGH BROTHERHOOD!

THE GIRL DIANA PALMER HAS RECEIVED FUNDS AND PLANS TO GO AFTER THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT SOON.
HA! WHERE DID SHE GET THE FUNDS?

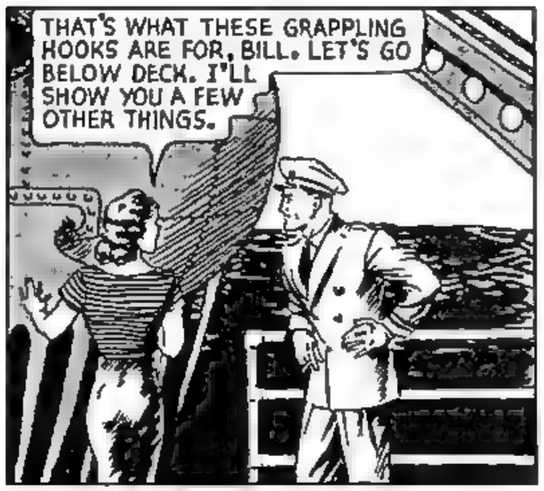
THAT IS NOT KNOWN, GREAT KABAI.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WATCH HER CLOSELY. KEEP US INFORMED. SHE MUST NOT BE DISTURBED-- YET!

DO YOU PLAN TO KIDNAP HER?
OF COURSE NOT! THAT IS, NOT UNTIL SHE LEADS US TO THE AMBERGRIS! THEN -- WE STRIKE!

WELL, WE'VE WORKED FAST. WE'RE ALL READY.
I WISH I WERE GOING WITH YOU. PERHAPS I CAN ARRANGE TO GET A SMALL DETACHMENT TO GO ALONG WITH YOU.
9-11
NO, THAT WOULD CAUSE TOO MUCH PUBLICITY. NO ONE HERE KNOWS WHAT I'M AFTER. WHEN THEY DO FIND OUT, IT'LL BE TOO LATE.
GOODBYE, AND THANKS FOR YOUR HELP--AND IF YOU SEE HIM AGAIN---
NOT MUCH CHANCE OF THAT, DIANA. GOOD LUCK. KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US BY WIRELESS.
SHE'S STILL WITH THE SOLDIER BOY, DEVIL. IN SPITE OF THAT, I'M GOING ALONG TO SEE THAT NOTHING HAPPENS TO MAKE HER LOSE THAT AMBERGRIS!
UNDER A NEARBY PIER---

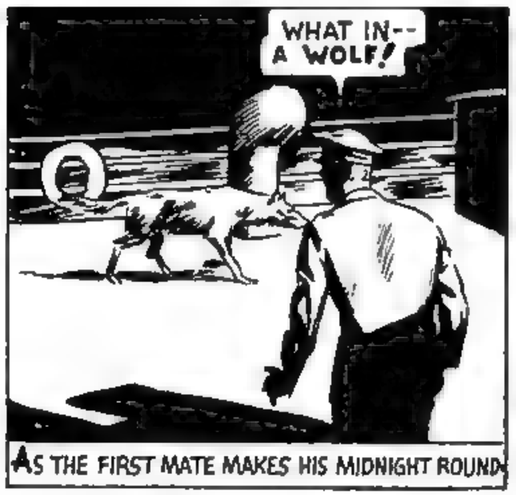

THIS IS IT. WE STOP HERE!
VERY GOOD, MISS PALMER.
AT LAST, BACK AGAIN. JUST BELOW IS THE GRAVEYARD OF THE WHALES--AND THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT! AND THERE'S ONE MAN I CAN THANK FOR BRINGING ME BACK!
MEANWHILE, BENEATH DIANA'S SHIP A SUBMARINE COMES TO A STOP!
9-12
DO WE TORPEDO THE SHIP, GREAT KABAI.
NO, FOOL. WE WAIT UNTIL SHE BRINGS UP ALL THE AMBERGRIS. LET HER DO THE WORK FOR US! THEN--WE STRIKE.
INSIDE THE SUBMARINE--- Continued--

BATHYSPHERE ALL READY, MISS PALMER. THIS IS GOING TO BE A TOUGH JOB. I DON'T SEE HOW YOU'RE GOING TO RAISE ALL THAT AMBERGRIS FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR.


THAT'S WHAT THESE GRAPPLING HOOKS ARE FOR, BILL. LET'S GO BELOW DECK. I'LL SHOW YOU A FEW OTHER THINGS.

THIS WATERSCOPE, A RECENT INVENTION, WILL AID US IN DIRECTING THE WORK.
I'LL BE DARNED. IT FOCUSES LIKE A TELESCOPE. I CAN SEE CLEAR TO THE BOTTOM!

THIS TORCH WILL BURN AND CUT METAL UNDER-WATER. I'VE BROUGHT IT ALONG, JUST IN CASE WE NEED IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT? I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, MISS PALMER. YOU DIDN'T FORGET A THING.
TOMORROW— WOLF ABOARD


WHAT IN-- A WOLF!
AS THE FIRST MATE MAKES HIS MIDNIGHT ROUND

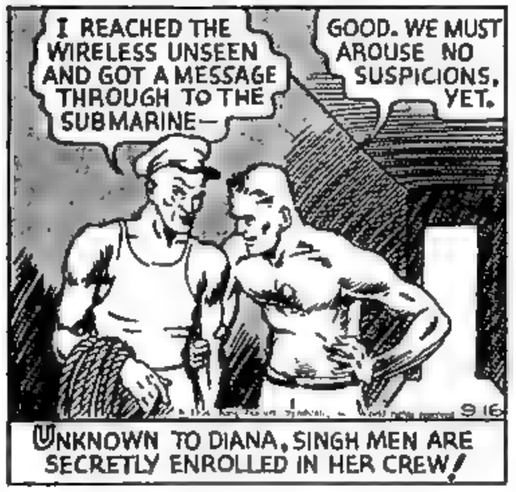
BUT I TELL YOU, MISS PALMER, I SAW IT-CLEAR AS I'M SEEING YOU!
NOW, MIKE, YOU'RE GETTING THE JITTERS. WHOEVER HEARD OF A WOLF BOARDING A SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JAVA SEA! GO AWAY AND LET ME SLEEP.

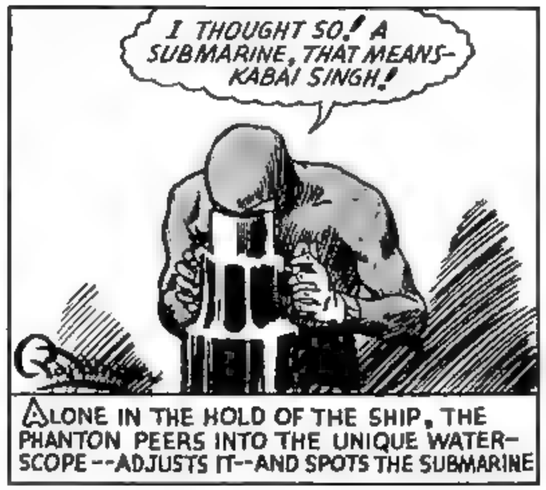
WELL--I DID SEE IT--PLAIN AS DAYLIGHT. IT'S AN OMEN. THAT'S WHAT IT IS. NO GOOD'S COMIN' OF THIS TRIP.
9-15

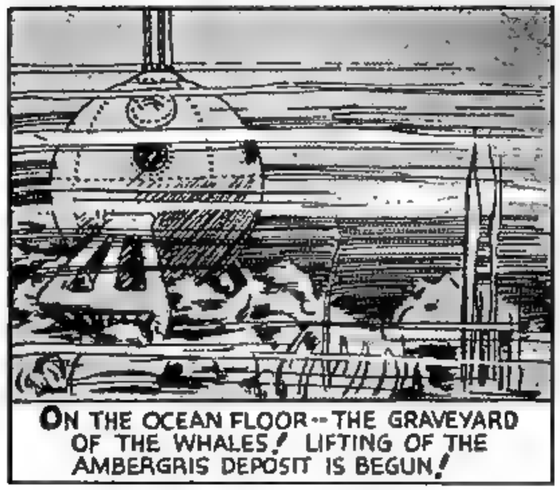
DEVIL, YOU OLD REPROBATE, AS SOON AS I DOZE OFF, YOU WANDER OFF. STAY PUT! DO YOU WANT TO GIVE US AWAY?
AT THAT MOMENT, IN A REMOTE PART OF THE HOLD

WELL, WE'RE READY TO GO. BILL, YOU'LL MAKE THIS TRIP WITH ME. MIKE, YOU'RE IN CHARGE HERE ON DECK.
AYE, MISS PALMER.

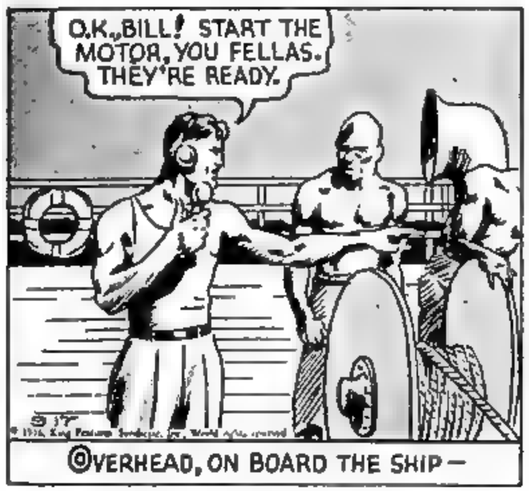
WORD FROM OVERHEAD RECEIVED, GREAT KABAI. SHE IS LOWERING.
GOOD. TELL OUR MEN ON DECK TO KEEP US INFORMED WHENEVER THEY HAVE A CHANCE.
FAR BELOW IN THE SINGH SUBMARINE--

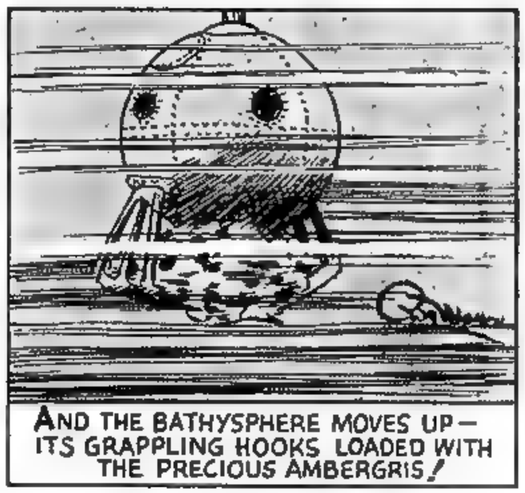

I REACHED THE WIRELESS UNSEEN AND GOT A MESSAGE THROUGH TO THE SUBMARINE--
GOOD. WE MUST AROUSE NO SUSPICIONS, YET.
UNKNOWN TO DIANA, SINGH MEN ARE SECRETLY ENROLLED IN HER CREW!


I THOUGHT SO! A SUBMARINE, THAT MEANS-- KABAI SINGH!
ALONE IN THE HOLD OF THE SHIP, THE PHANTON PEERS INTO THE UNIQUE WATER-SCOPE--ADJUSTS IT--AND SPOTS THE SUBMARINE

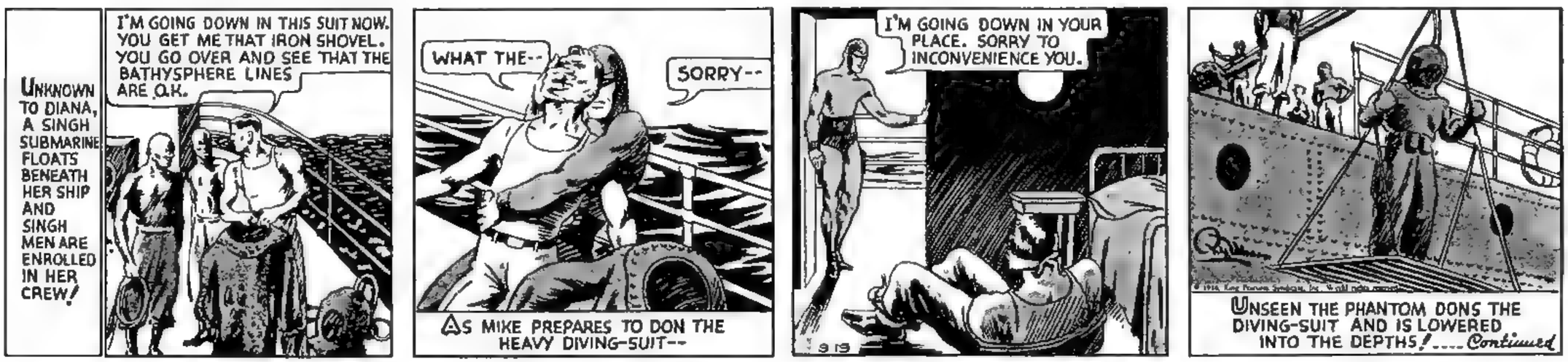

ON THE OCEAN FLOOR--THE GRAVEYARD OF THE WHALES! LIFTING OF THE AMBERGRIS DEPOSIT IS BEGUN!

WE'RE LOADED, BILL. TELL THEM TO LIFT US UP.
VERY GOOD. MIKE, WE'RE READY. BRING US UP!
INSIDE THE BATHYSPHERE--

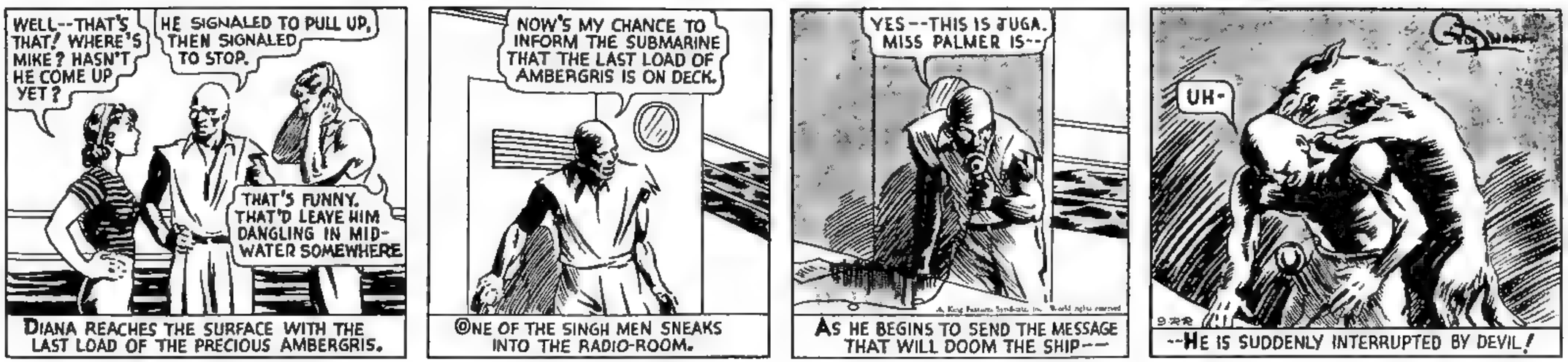

O.K., BILL! START THE MOTOR, YOU FELLAS. THEY'RE READY.
OVERHEAD, ON BOARD THE SHIP--

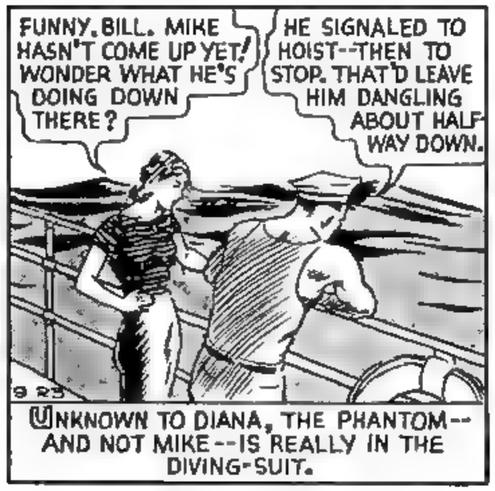

AND THE BATHYSPHERE MOVES UP-- ITS GRAPPLING HOOKS LOADED WITH THE PRECIOUS AMBERGRIS!

DIANA MAKES TRIP AFTER TRIP IN HER BATHYSPHERE TO THE OCEAN FLOOR, BRINGING UP LOADS OF THE PRICELESS AMBERGRIS.
MIKE, FOLLOW US DOWN IN THAT DIVING-SUIT. THERE'S LOTS OF LOOSE LUMPS WE CAN'T REACH. BRING A SHOVEL WITH YOU. DON'T BE AFRAID. THAT SUIT'LL HOLD
O.K., MISS PALMER
GIRL LOWERING AGAIN. NEED ANOTHER DAY TO BRING UP LAST OF DEPOSIT.
SOMEONE COMING! LET'S GET OUT--QUICK!
9-18
ANOTHER MESSAGE RECEIVED. JOB WILL BE FINISHED IN ONE MORE DAY.
GOOD! THEN-TOMORROW--WE STRIKE!
KABAI SINGH RECEIVES THE MESSAGE IN HIS SUBMARINE BELOW THE SHIP.


UNKNOWN TO DIANA, A SINGH SUBMARINE FLOATS BENEATH HER SHIP AND SINGH MEN ARE ENROLLED IN HER CREW!
I'M GOING DOWN IN THIS SUIT NOW. YOU GET ME THAT IRON SHOVEL. YOU GO OVER AND SEE THAT THE BATHYSPHERE LINES ARE O.K.
WHAT THE--
SORRY--
AS MIKE PREPARES TO DON THE HEAVY DIVING-SUIT--
I'M GOING DOWN IN YOUR PLACE. SORRY TO INCONVENIENCE YOU.
9-19
UNSEEN THE PHANTOM DONS THE DIVING-SUIT AND IS LOWERED INTO THE DEPTHS!.....Continued

UNKNOWN TO DIANA, THE PHANTOM HAS DONNED THE DIVER'S SUIT AND DESCENDED TO THE OCEAN FLOOR BESIDE THE BATHYSPHERE
UNDERWATER, THE PHANTOM SHOVES THE SCATTERED LUMPS OF AMBERGRIS INTO THE GRAPPLING HOOKS OF THE BATHYSPHERE!
MIKE CERTAINLY WORKS FAST. I GUESS THIS IS OUR LAST LOAD.
O.K., MISS PALMER. HEY--UP THERE. PULL US UP. THIS IS OUR LAST LOAD.
LAST LOAD COMING UP. QUICK, GET TO THE WIRELESS. INFORM THE SUBMARINE.
ON DECK, THE SINGH MEN SECRETLY ENROLLED IN THE CREW, RECEIVE THE ORDER.
LEFT ALONE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, THE PHANTOM DOES NOT GIVE HIS HOISTING ORDER, BUT SEARCHES FOR THE SINGH SUBMARINE!

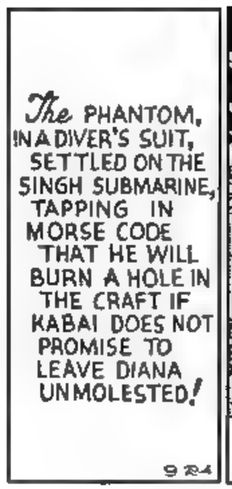

WELL--THAT'S THAT! WHERE'S MIKE? HASN'T HE COME UP YET?
HE SIGNALED TO PULL UP, THEN SIGNALED TO STOP.
THAT'S FUNNY. THAT'D LEAVE HIM DANGLING IN MID-WATER SOMEWHERE.
DIANA REACHES THE SURFACE WITH THE LAST LOAD OF THE PRECIOUS AMBERGRIS.
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO INFORM THE SUBMARINE THAT THE LAST LOAD OF AMBERGRIS IS ON DECK.
ONE OF THE SINGH MEN SNEAKS INTO THE RADIO-ROOM.
YES--THIS IS JUGA. MISS PALMER IS--
AS HE BEGINS TO SEND THE MESSAGE THAT WILL DOOM THE SHIP---
UH-
--HE IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED BY DEVIL!

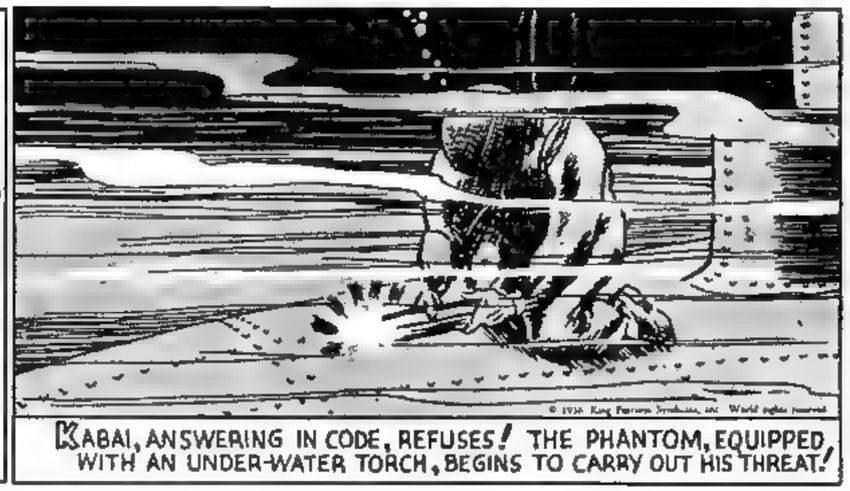

FUNNY, BILL. MIKE HASN'T COME UP YET! WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING DOWN THERE?
HE SIGNALED TO HOIST--THEN TO STOP. THAT'D LEAVE HIM DANGLING ABOUT HALF-WAY DOWN.
UNKNOWN TO DIANA, THE PHANTOM--AND NOT MIKE--IS REALLY IN THE DIVING-SUIT.

UNDERWATER, A GRIM DRAMA IS BEING ENACTED! THE PHANTOM HAS SETTLED ON THE SINGH SUBMARINE AND BEGINS TO TAP!

--AND HE SAYS--IF WE DO NOT LEAVE, HE'LL BURN A HOLE IN SIDE OF SUBMARINE!
WHAT! THE PHANTOM--HOW DID HE GET DOWN HERE? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THE MORSE CODE TAPS ARE RECEIVED INSIDE THE SUBMARINE BY KABAI SINGH!

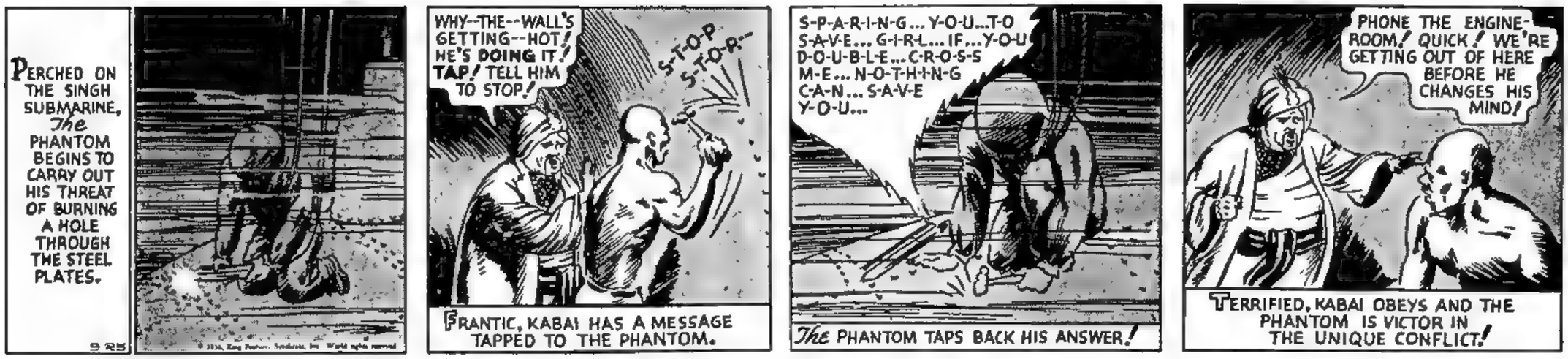
TAP BACK! TELL THAT BLANKETY-BLANK HE CAN'T BLUFF ME! HOW CAN HE BURN STEEL UNDER WATER?
T-E-L-L T-H-A-T-ER- HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT NEXT PART, GREAT KABAI?


The PHANTOM, IN A DIVER'S SUIT, SETTLED ON THE SINGH SUBMARINE, TAPPING IN MORSE CODE THAT HE WILL BURN A HOLE IN THE CRAFT IF KABAI DOES NOT PROMISE TO LEAVE DIANA UNMOLESTED!


KABAI, ANSWERING IN CODE, REFUSES! THE PHANTOM, EQUIPPED WITH AN UNDER-WATER TORCH, BEGINS TO CARRY OUT HIS THREAT!

--AND I TELL YOU, MISS PALMER, THIS GUY JUMPS ON ME AND THAT'S ALL I KNOW. I AIN'T BEEN UNDER-WATER AT ALL!
HMM--THEN WHO--I THINK I KNOW!

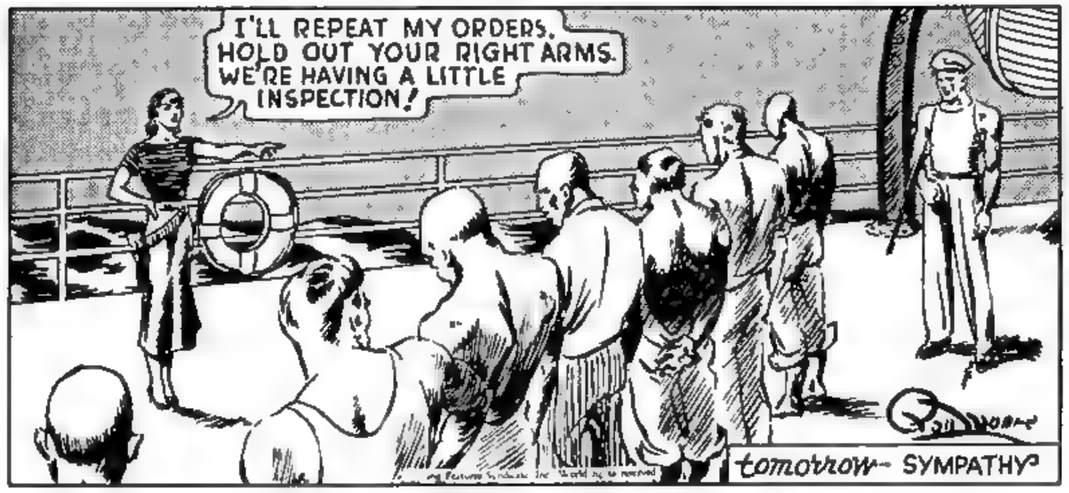
WHAT ON EARTH! A SUBMARINE! AND THERE--THERE HE IS!
THROUGH HER PENETRATING WATER-SCOPE, DIANA WITNESSES THE STRANGE UNDER-WATER CONFLICT!


PERCHED ON THE SINGH SUBMARINE, The PHANTOM BEGINS TO CARRY OUT HIS THREAT OF BURNING A HOLE THROUGH THE STEEL PLATES.
9-25
WHY--THE--WALL'S GETTING--HOT! HE'S DOING IT! TAP! TELL HIM TO STOP!
S-T-O-P S-T-O-P--
FRANTIC, KABAI HAS A MESSAGE TAPPED TO THE PHANTOM.
S-P-A-R-I-N-G... Y-O-U...T-O S-A-V-E... G-I-R-L... IF...Y-O-U D-O-U-B-L-E... C-R-O-S-S M-E... N-O-T-H-I-N-G C-A-N... S-A-V-E Y-O-U...
The PHANTOM TAPS BACK HIS ANSWER!
PHONE THE ENGINE-ROOM! QUICK! WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE CHANGES HIS MIND!
TERRIFIED, KABAI OBEYS AND THE PHANTOM IS VICTOR IN THE UNIQUE CONFLICT!

THERE'S THE SIGNAL! HE WANTS TO COME UP! BUT IF HE AIN'T MIKE, WHO IS HE?
NEVER MIND THAT. HOIST HIM AND THEN CLEAR THE DECKS. I WANT EVERYONE BELOW DECKS, INCLUDING YOU, BILL.
9-26
I--KNEW IT WAS YOU!
AND YOU WERE--RIGHT!
DEVIL JOINS IN THE RECEPTION.
WHO IS THE PHANTOM? WHAT IS THE PHANTOM? Watch NEXT WEEK!

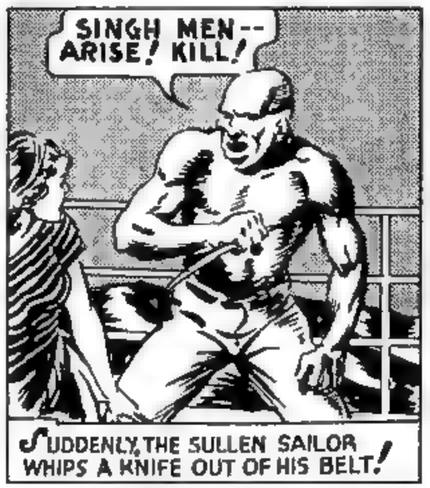
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOURSELF! I'M DYING OF CURIOSITY!
SOON, I PROMISE, BUT FIRST--THERE ARE SINGH MEN AMONG YOUR CREW! LINE UP YOUR MEN AND LOOK FOR THREE DOTS ON THE RIGHT WRIST. THAT IS THE MARK OF SINGH!
9-28

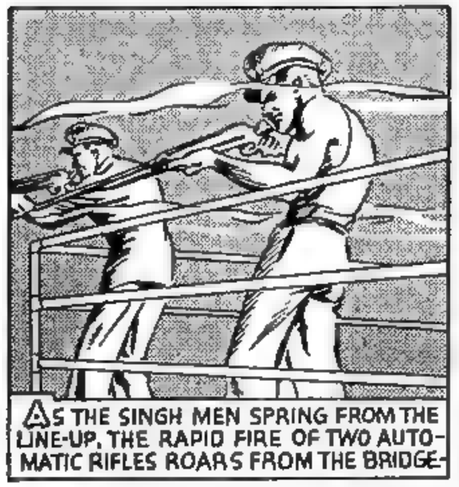
NEVER MIND HOW I KNOW. I KNOW. WE DON'T KNOW WHOM WE CAN TRUST. HAVE YOU GUNS READY FOR ACTION.
IT SEEMS--- IMPOSSIBLE. WELL, I'M READY FOR THEM.


I'LL REPEAT MY ORDERS. HOLD OUT YOUR RIGHT ARMS. WE'RE HAVING A LITTLE INSPECTION!
tomorrow- SYMPATHY

SEARCHING FOR SINGH MEN AMONG HER CREW, DIANA INSPECTS HER MEN, LOOKING FOR THE TELL-TALE THREE DOTS ON THE WRIST.

COME, JUGA-- LET'S SEE YOUR ARM.
BUT WHY?--MY ARM'S ALL RIGHT. I WON'T---

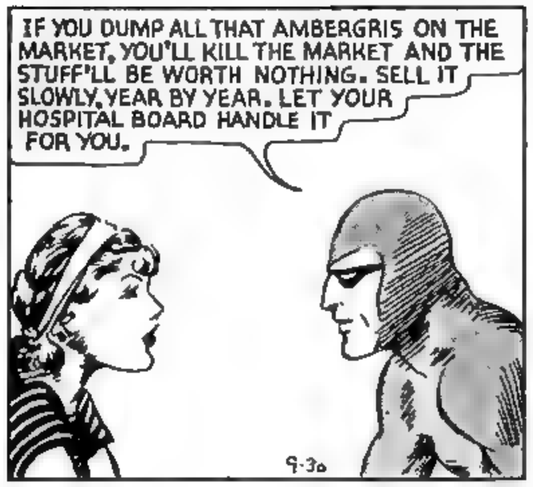

SINGH MEN-- ARISE! KILL!
SUDDENLY, THE SULLEN SAILOR WHIPS A KNIFE OUT OF HIS BELT!


AS THE SINGH MEN SPRING FROM THE LINE-UP, THE RAPID FIRE OF TWO AUTOMATIC RIFLES ROARS FROM THE BRIDGE-

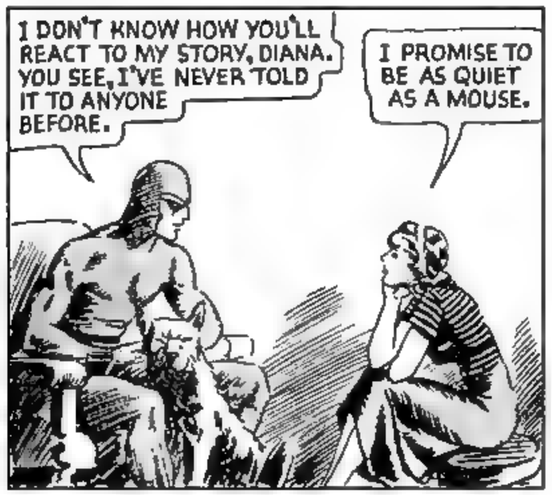
IT'S--A SHAME --WE--HAD TO--
DON'T WASTE SYMPATHY ON THOSE RATS, MISS PALMER. IT WAS YOU OR THEM.
9-29
JOMORROW--PHANTOM'S ADVICE

WELL--YOU WERE RIGHT. WE CAUGHT THE SINGH MEN. IT'S--IT'S ALL OVER NOW.
YES, I HEARD THE RACKET. SORRY I MISSED THE FUN, BUT I WAS HUNGRIER THAN A BEAR.

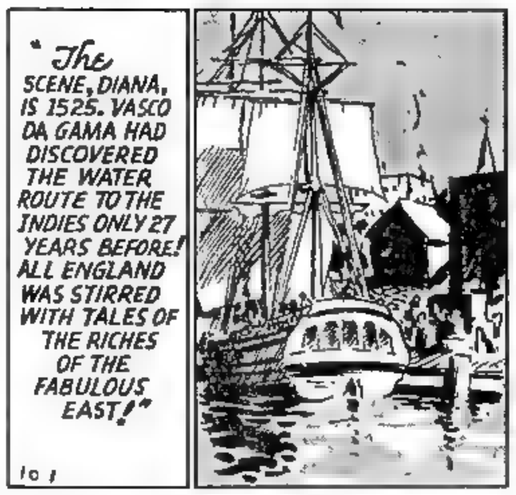
WELL--I'VE GOT THE AMBERGRIS NOW--AT LAST! IT MUST BE WORTH--OODLES! NOW DAD'S HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED KIDDIES IS ASSURED.
GOOD, BUT LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.


IF YOU DUMP ALL THAT AMBERGRIS ON THE MARKET, YOU'LL KILL THE MARKET AND THE STUFF'LL BE WORTH NOTHING. SELL IT SLOWLY, YEAR BY YEAR. LET YOUR HOSPITAL BOARD HANDLE IT FOR YOU.
9-30

IT'S FUNNY TO SEE YOU EAT. I MEAN, I NEVER THOUGHT--WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF?
AS SOON AS I FINISH THE LAST CRUMB OF THIS MAGNIFICENT GRAVY-BREAD.
TOMORROW THE PHANTOM'S OWN STORY

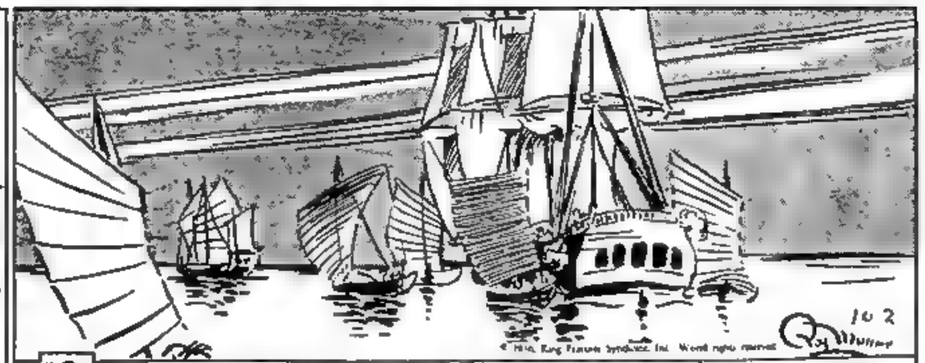

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'LL REACT TO MY STORY, DIANA. YOU SEE, I'VE NEVER TOLD IT TO ANYONE BEFORE.
I PROMISE TO BE AS QUIET AS A MOUSE.

I MEAN, IT'S A STRANGE STORY--AS STRANGE AS ALL THE RUMORS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT ME. SOMETIMES, I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE IT, MYSELF.


"The SCENE, DIANA, IS 1525. VASCO DA GAMA HAD DISCOVERED THE WATER ROUTE TO THE INDIES ONLY 27 YEARS BEFORE! ALL ENGLAND WAS STIRRED WITH TALES OF THE RICHES OF THE FABULOUS EAST!"
10 1

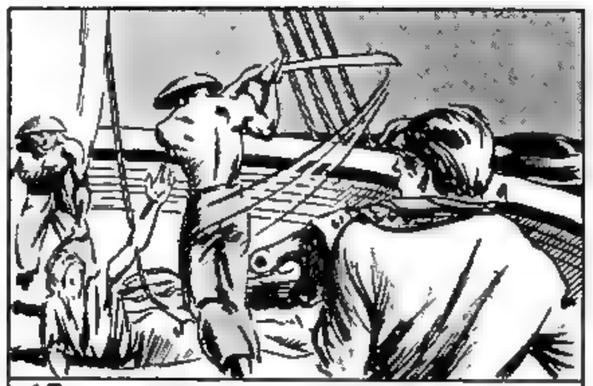
"IN LONDON, A YOUNG NOBLE, SIR CHRISTOPHER STANDISH, CHARTERED A SHIP. IT SAILED DOWN THE OLD THAMES, INTO UNCHARTED SEAS---NEVER TO RETURN!"

The PHANTOM TELLS HIS STORY TO DIANA. HE BEGINS BY DESCRIBING THE DEPARTURE OF SIR CHRISTOPHER STANDISH FROM LONDON IN 1525, BOUND FOR THE INDIES.



"WITH SIR CHRISTOPHER WAS HIS OLD FATHER, WHO DIDN'T WANT TO MISS THIS GREAT ADVENTURE. THEY SAILED AROUND THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, ONE OF THE FIRST ENGLISH SHIPS TO MAKE THE TRIP. AFTER MANY MONTHS OF HARDSHIP AND ADVENTURE, DISASTER CAME. SOMEWHERE IN THE BAY OF BENGAL, SIR CHRISTOPHER'S SHIP WAS ATTACKED BY ORIENTAL PIRATES!"

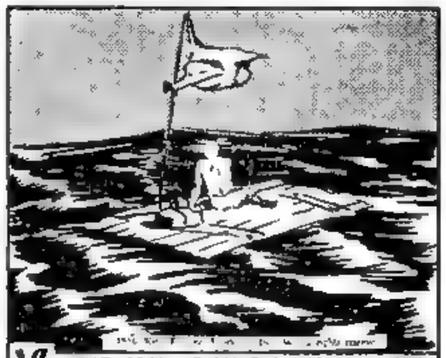
"THESE CHINESE WERE LIKE MEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET TO THE ENGLISHMEN. THEY FOUGHT VALIANTLY AGAINST THE TERRIFIC ODDS."



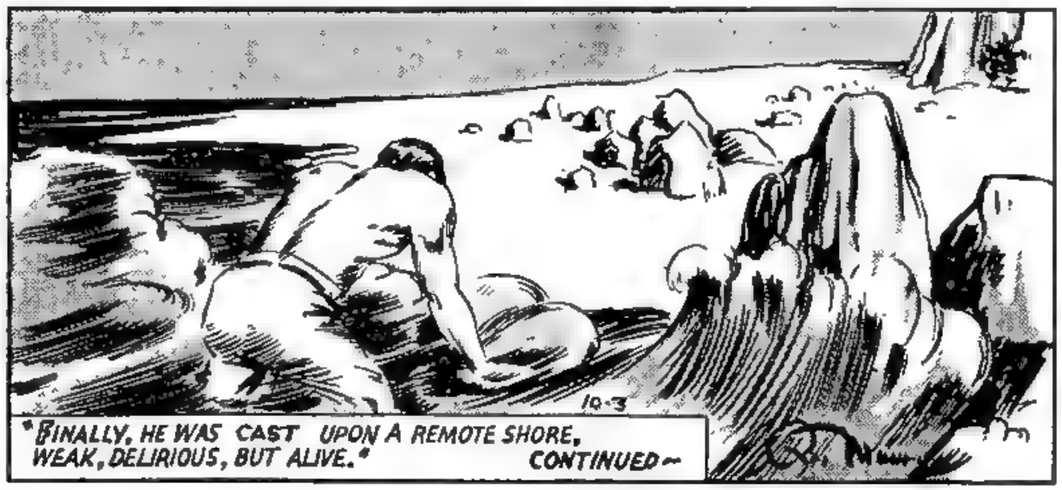
"BEFORE HIS OWN EYES, SIR CHRISTOPHER SAW HIS OLD FATHER WANTONLY SLAIN! THE YOUNG NOBLE FOUGHT LIKE A TIGER AT BAY, BUT IT WAS A LOSING FIGHT!"

The PHANTOM'S STORY: TIME, 1525; PLACE, THE BAY OF BENGAL, WHERE SIR CHRISTOPHER STANDISH'S SHIP IS ATTACKED BY ORIENTAL PIRATES AND THE YOUNG NOBLE'S FATHER IS SLAIN!

"AS THE PIRATES GAINED THE UPPER HAND, A TYPHOON STRUCK WITH SUDDEN AND TERRIFIC RESULTS, SWAMPING THE JUNKS AND THE ENGLISH SHIP ALIKE!"

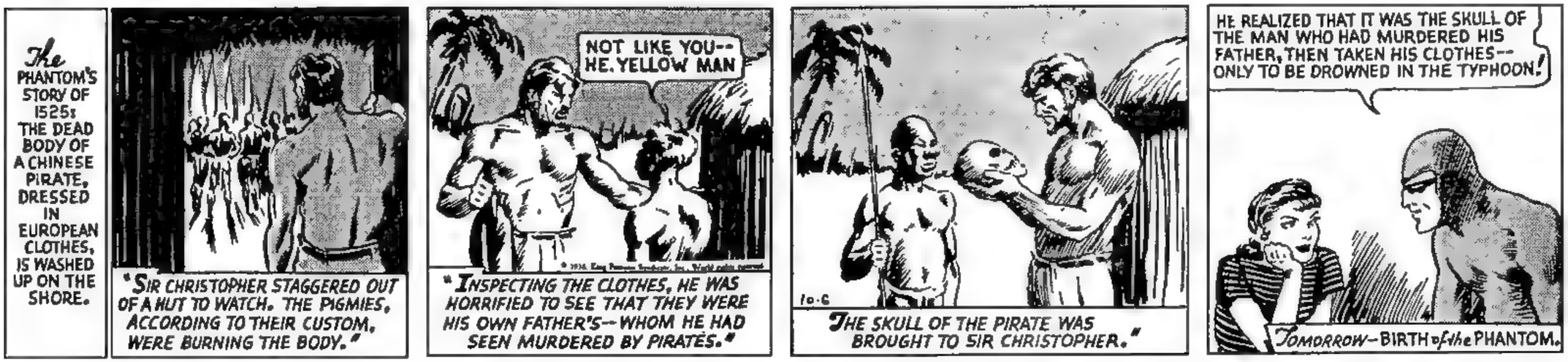


"IN THE CONFUSION, SIR CHRISTOPHER MANAGED TO GET A HANDFUL OF SUPPLIES AND A MAKE-SHIFT RAFT. HE DRIFTED FOR WEEKS OVER THE BOUNDLESS MAIN!"

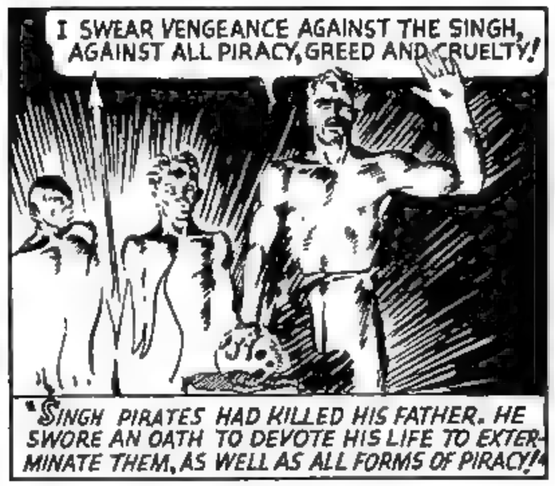


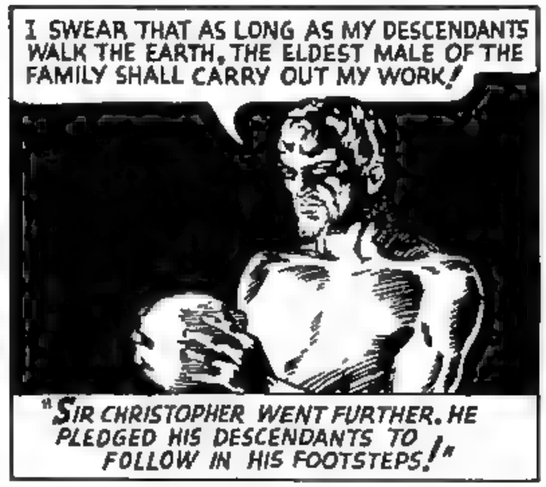
"FINALLY, HE WAS CAST UPON A REMOTE SHORE, WEAK, DELIRIOUS, BUT ALIVE." CONTINUED—

The PHANTOM TELLS DIANA THE STORY OF SIR CHRISTOPHER STANDISH.
BUT WHAT HAS THIS OLD STORY OF 1525 TO DO WITH YOU?
I'M GETTING TO THAT, DIANA. I WANT YOU TO GET THE PICTURE OF THIS MAN WHO HAD SEEN HIS FATHER KILLED BEFORE HIS VERY EYES.
"SIR CHRISTOPHER WAS FOUND ON THE SHORE BY PIGMIES WHO HAD NEVER SEEN A WHITE MAN BEFORE."
"THEY CARED FOR HIM, TREATING HIM ALMOST LIKE A GOD."
10-5
"THEN, A FEW DAYS LATER, A BODY WAS WASHED UPON THE SHORE. IT WAS A CHINESE PIRATE, DEAD, DRESSED IN EUROPEAN CLOTHES!"


The PHANTOM'S STORY OF 1525: THE DEAD BODY OF A CHINESE PIRATE, DRESSED IN EUROPEAN CLOTHES, IS WASHED UP ON THE SHORE.
"SIR CHRISTOPHER STAGGERED OUT OF A HUT TO WATCH. THE PIGMIES, ACCORDING TO THEIR CUSTOM, WERE BURNING THE BODY."
NOT LIKE YOU-- HE, YELLOW MAN
"INSPECTING THE CLOTHES, HE WAS HORRIFIED TO SEE THAT THEY WERE HIS OWN FATHER'S-- WHOM HE HAD SEEN MURDERED BY PIRATES."
10-6
"THE SKULL OF THE PIRATE WAS BROUGHT TO SIR CHRISTOPHER."
HE REALIZED THAT IT WAS THE SKULL OF THE MAN WHO HAD MURDERED HIS FATHER, THEN TAKEN HIS CLOTHES-- ONLY TO BE DROWNED IN THE TYPHOON!
TOMORROW--BIRTH of the PHANTOM.

AND--WHAT DID SIR CHRISTOPHER DO WITH THE SKULL OF HIS FATHER'S MURDERER?
HE JUST STARED AT IT, DIANA.


I SWEAR VENGEANCE AGAINST THE SINGH, AGAINST ALL PIRACY, GREED AND CRUELTY!
"SINGH PIRATES HAD KILLED HIS FATHER. HE SWORE AN OATH TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO EXTERMINATE THEM, AS WELL AS ALL FORMS OF PIRACY!"


I SWEAR THAT AS LONG AS MY DESCENDANTS WALK THE EARTH, THE ELDEST MALE OF THE FAMILY SHALL CARRY OUT MY WORK!
"SIR CHRISTOPHER WENT FURTHER. HE PLEDGED HIS DESCENDANTS TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS!"

HE WAS THE FIRST PHANTOM. THAT WAS FOUR HUNDRED AND ELEVEN YEARS AGO. I AM HIS DESCENDANT, PLEDGED TO CARRY OUT HIS OATH AGAINST THE SINGH IN PARTICULAR, CRIME IN GENERAL!

THEN THE PHANTOM WHOM DR. DODD SAW IN 1865, WAS NOT YOU BUT--
MY GRANDFATHER, DIANA. THE PHANTOM HAS COME DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES. WE HAVE MADE OUR HEADQUARTERS ON THIS REMOTE ISLAND AMONG THE BANDAR PIGMIES.

DO YOU SWEAR TO CARRY ON AFTER ME, TO FULFIL OUR ANCESTOR'S OATH?
I DO.
"TEN YEARS AGO, AFTER MY RETURN FROM OXFORD, MY FATHER PLEDGED ME TO THE OATH; --JUST AS HIS FATHER HAD DONE AND HIS FATHER'S FATHER."

AND--AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR--FATHER?
HE WAS KILLED--BY THE SINGH--IN THE BAY OF BENGAL--SIX MONTHS LATER.

I--I TOOK HIS PLACE AT ONCE—AND THE SINGH THOUGHT THAT THE PHANTOM HAD AGAIN RETURNED FROM THE DEAD!
Tomorrow—DIANA'S QUESTION

SO, THROUGH THE CENTURIES, WE HAVE MAINTAINED OUR SECRECY, KEPT OUR OATH.
BUT--IT ALL SEEMS SO --CRUEL, TO RUIN YOUR LIFE BECAUSE OF AN AGE-OLD OATH. WHY NOT--FORGET AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE?

FORGET? IMPOSSIBLE! THE OATH IS PART OF ME. BESIDES, WHAT BETTER PURPOSE COULD I HAVE THAN THE EXTERMINATION OF PIRACY, CRIME, CRUELTY?

BUT IF YOU GUARD YOUR SECRET SO CAREFULLY, WHY HAVE YOU TOLD ME?
BECAUSE, DIANA, WE ARE PERMITTED BY THE OATH TO BREAK THE SECRECY TWICE- AND ONLY TWICE.
10-9

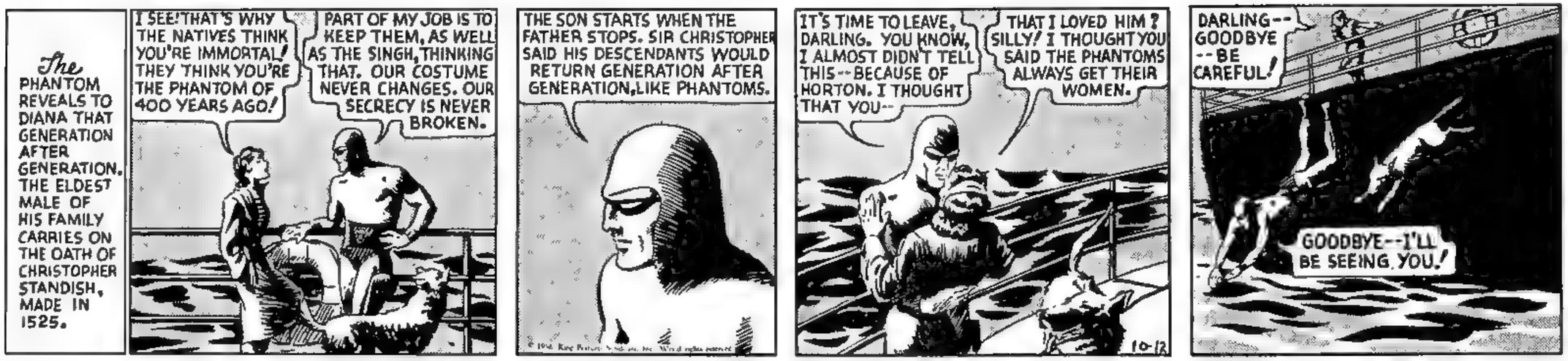
FIRST, TO THE GIRL WE HOPE TO MARRY. SECOND, TO THE SON WHO IS TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION.
OH--I--I SEE.
Tomorrow—AU REVOIR

YOU SAY YOU BREAK YOUR SECRECY, FIRST TO THE WOMAN YOU HOPE TO MARRY. WHAT IF SHE REFUSES YOU?
WE PHANTOMS HAVE NEVER BEEN REFUSED, DIANA.

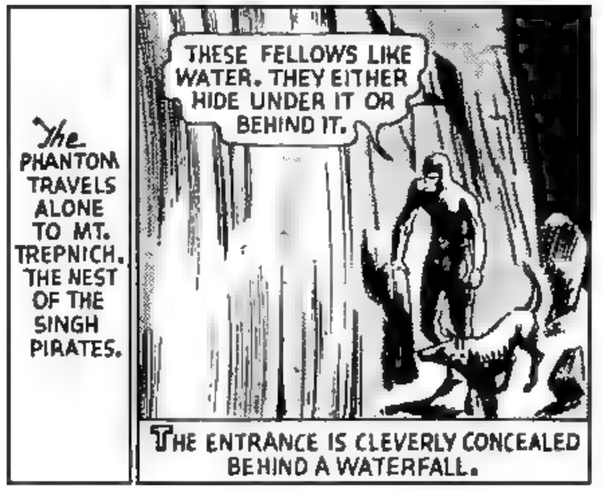
WELL,--I GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING IN THAT.
DIANA, I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU NOW. YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO AMERICA WITH YOUR AMBERGRIS.

AND I HAVE TO RETURN TO LUNTOK--TO THE SINGH! I HAVE THEM NOW WHERE I WANT THEM!

YOU--YOU--WON'T GET HURT? YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF?
WE PHANTOMS ARE A HARDY RACE, DARLING.
10 10
Continued—

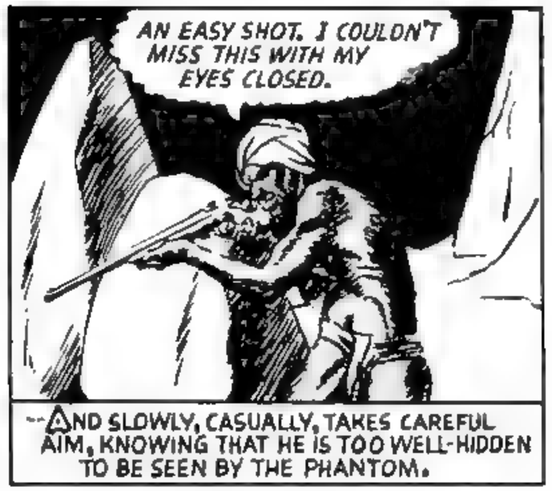

The PHANTOM REVEALS TO DIANA THAT GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, THE ELDEST MALE OF HIS FAMILY CARRIES ON THE OATH OF CHRISTOPHER STANDISH, MADE IN 1525.
I SEE! THAT'S WHY THE NATIVES THINK YOU'RE IMMORTAL! THEY THINK YOU'RE THE PHANTOM OF 400 YEARS AGO!
PART OF MY JOB IS TO KEEP THEM, AS WELL AS THE SINGH, THINKING THAT. OUR COSTUME NEVER CHANGES. OUR SECRECY IS NEVER BROKEN.
THE SON STARTS WHEN THE FATHER STOPS. SIR CHRISTOPHER SAID HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD RETURN GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, LIKE PHANTOMS.
IT'S TIME TO LEAVE, DARLING. YOU KNOW, I ALMOST DIDN'T TELL THIS--BECAUSE OF HORTON. I THOUGHT THAT YOU--
THAT I LOVED HIM? SILLY! I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE PHANTOMS ALWAYS GET THEIR WOMEN.
10-12
DARLING--GOODBYE--BE CAREFUL!
GOODBYE--I'LL BE SEEING YOU!

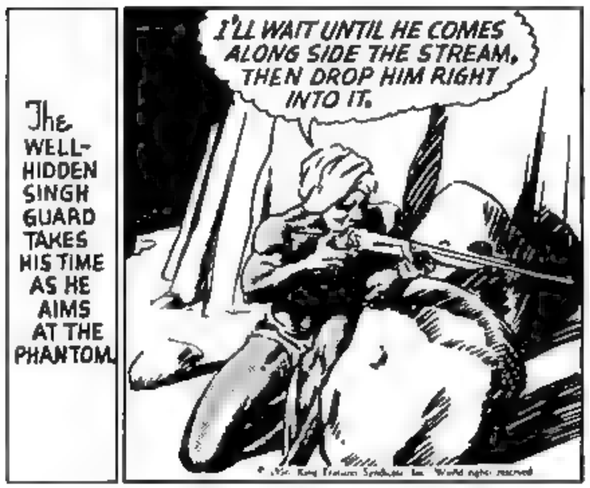
WHAT IN THUNDER! A WOLF!
CAPTAIN MELVILLE HORTON HAS A VISITOR JUST AS HE CRAWLS INTO BED.
DON'T SHOOT, CAPTAIN. DEVIL WON'T HURT YOU. WE'VE ONLY COME FOR A MINUTE.
YOU! WHEW! I THOUGHT I WAS HAVING A NIGHT-MARE!
HORTON, THE SINGH HAVE THEIR HEADQUARTERS ON MT. TREPNICH. IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET THEM.
WHAT! MARVELOUS! WE'LL LEAVE AT ONCE!
10 13
NO. I'M GOING AHEAD, ALONE. I HAVE A PERSONAL MATTER TO SETTLE WITH KABAI SINGH. FOLLOW IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. AN ARMY COULDN'T STORM THAT PLACE. YOUR ONLY CHANCE IS FROM THE AIR. GOODBYE.
TOMORROW-THE WATERFALL PASS


The PHANTOM TRAVELS ALONE TO MT. TREPNICH, THE NEST OF THE SINGH PIRATES.
THESE FELLOWS LIKE WATER. THEY EITHER HIDE UNDER IT OR BEHIND IT.
THE ENTRANCE IS CLEVERLY CONCEALED BEHIND A WATERFALL.

SO FAR, SO GOOD, DEVIL.

10/14
A SINGH GUARD SPOTS THE INTRUDER--

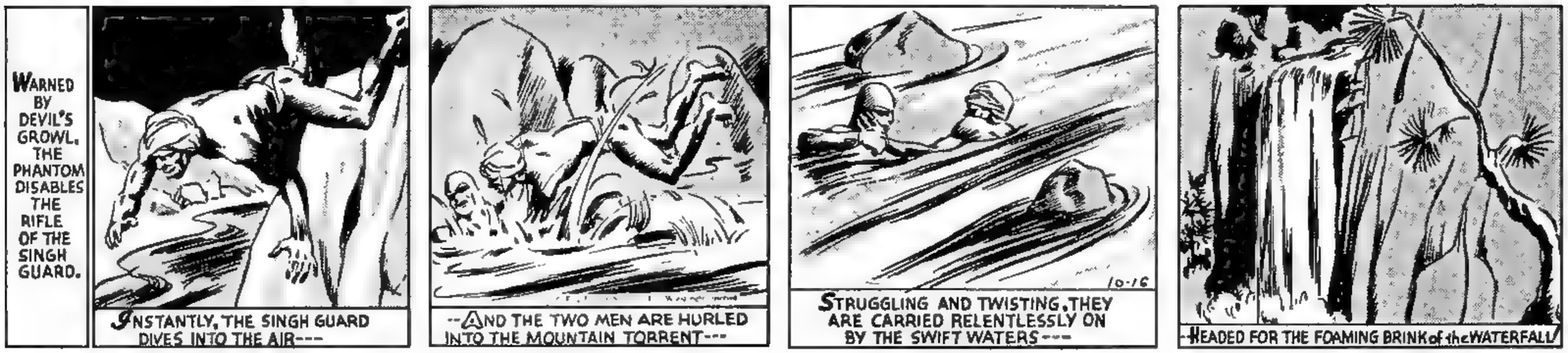

AN EASY SHOT. I COULDN'T MISS THIS WITH MY EYES CLOSED.
--AND SLOWLY, CASUALLY, TAKES CAREFUL AIM, KNOWING THAT HE IS TOO WELL-HIDDEN TO BE SEEN BY THE PHANTOM.

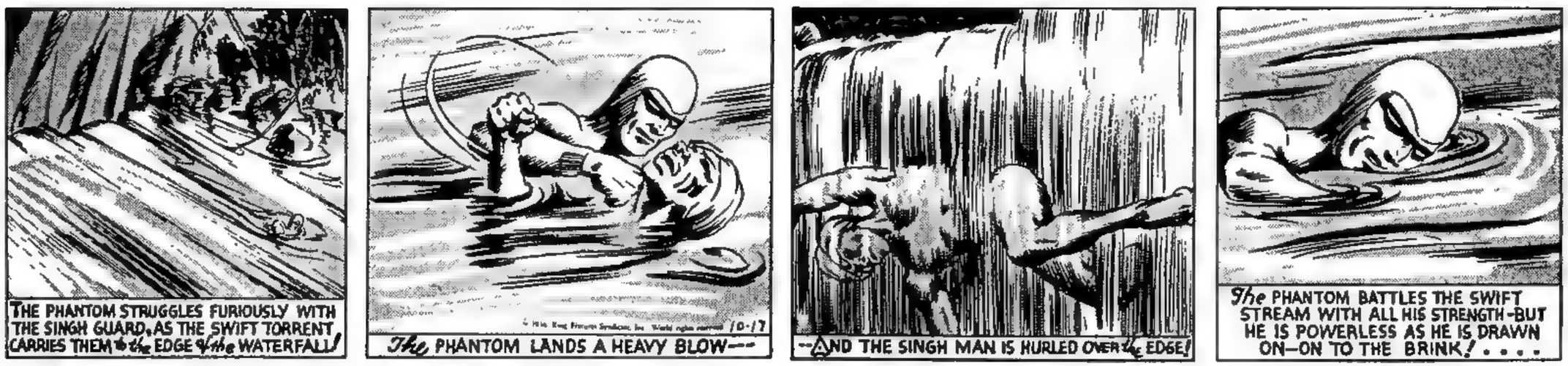

The WELL-HIDDEN SINGH GUARD TAKES HIS TIME AS HE AIMS AT THE PHANTOM.
I'LL WAIT UNTIL HE COMES ALONG SIDE THE STREAM, THEN DROP HIM RIGHT INTO IT.

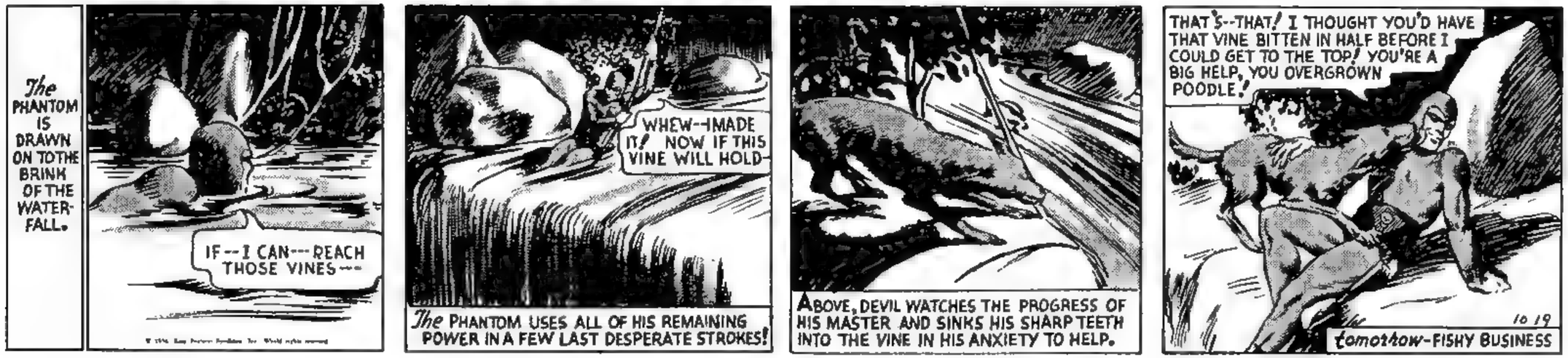
STRANGE--NO GUARDS. WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEVIL?
SUDDENLY, WARNED BY SOME DIM INSTINCT, DEVIL GROWLS--JUST IN TIME.

IN ONE MOTION, THE PHANTOM WHIPS OUT HIS PISTOL AND SHOOTS---

10/15
DISABLING THE RIFLE OF THE SINGH GUARD!


WARNED BY DEVIL'S GROWL, THE PHANTOM DISABLES THE RIFLE OF THE SINGH GUARD.
INSTANTLY, THE SINGH GUARD DIVES INTO THE AIR---
--AND THE TWO MEN ARE HURLED INTO THE MOUNTAIN TORRENT---
10-16
STRUGGLING AND TWISTING, THEY ARE CARRIED RELENTLESSLY ON BY THE SWIFT WATERS---
--HEADED FOR THE FOAMING BRINK of the WATERFALL!


THE PHANTOM STRUGGLES FURIOUSLY WITH THE SINGH GUARD, AS THE SWIFT TORRENT CARRIES THEM to the EDGE of the WATERFALL!
10-17
The PHANTOM LANDS A HEAVY BLOW---
--AND THE SINGH MAN IS HURLED OVER the EDGE!
The PHANTOM BATTLES THE SWIFT STREAM WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH-BUT HE IS POWERLESS AS HE IS DRAWN ON—ON TO THE BRINK! . . . .

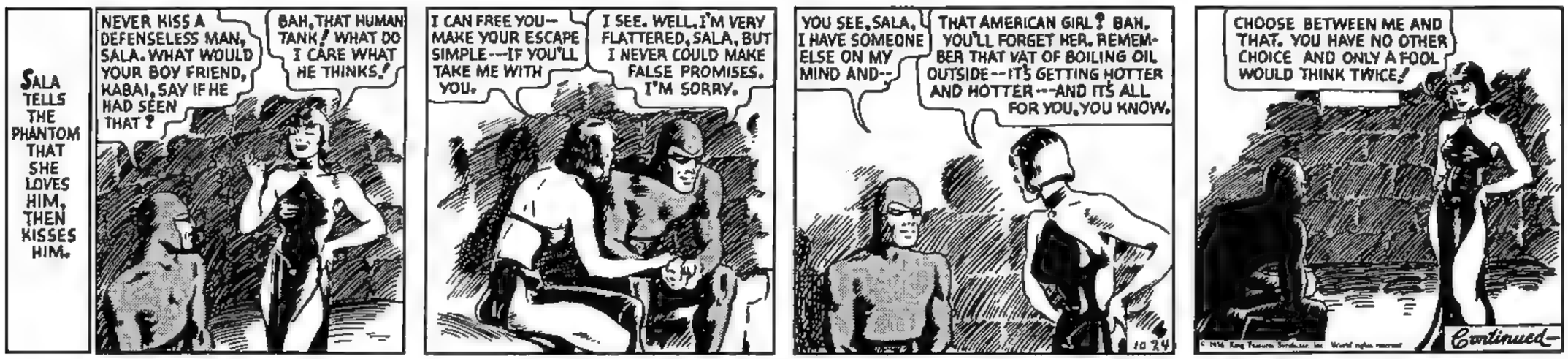

The PHANTOM IS DRAWN ON TO THE BRINK OF THE WATER-FALL.
IF--I CAN---REACH THOSE VINES---
WHEW--I MADE IT! NOW IF THIS VINE WILL HOLD-
The PHANTOM USES ALL OF HIS REMAINING POWER IN A FEW LAST DESPERATE STROKES!
ABOVE, DEVIL WATCHES THE PROGRESS OF HIS MASTER AND SINKS HIS SHARP TEETH INTO THE VINE IN HIS ANXIETY TO HELP.
THAT'S--THAT! I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE THAT VINE BITTEN IN HALF BEFORE I COULD GET TO THE TOP! YOU'RE A BIG HELP, YOU OVERGROWN POODLE!
10 19
tomorrow-FISHY BUSINESS

CAUTIOUSLY, THE PHANTOM APPROACHES THE MT. TREPNICH NEST OF THE SINGH BROTHER-HOOD OF PIRATES.
HERE WE ARE, DEVIL. QUIET, ISN'T IT? YET THAT PLACE IS FILLED WITH THE TOUGHEST RIFF-RAFF THIS SIDE OF THE EQUATOR.
WAIT HERE, DEVIL! I'M GOING AHEAD, ALONE. NOW I DON'T WANT TO HEAR A PEEP OUT OF YOU. SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE. THIS PLACE SHOULD BE THICK WITH GUARDS.
AN OPEN DOOR--NO GUARDS! THIS IS GETTING FISHIER EVERY MINUTE!
10 20
WHAT THE--
SUDDENLY, SILENTLY, A HEAVY NET DROPS UPON THE PHANTOM, COMPLETELY ENMESHING HIM!

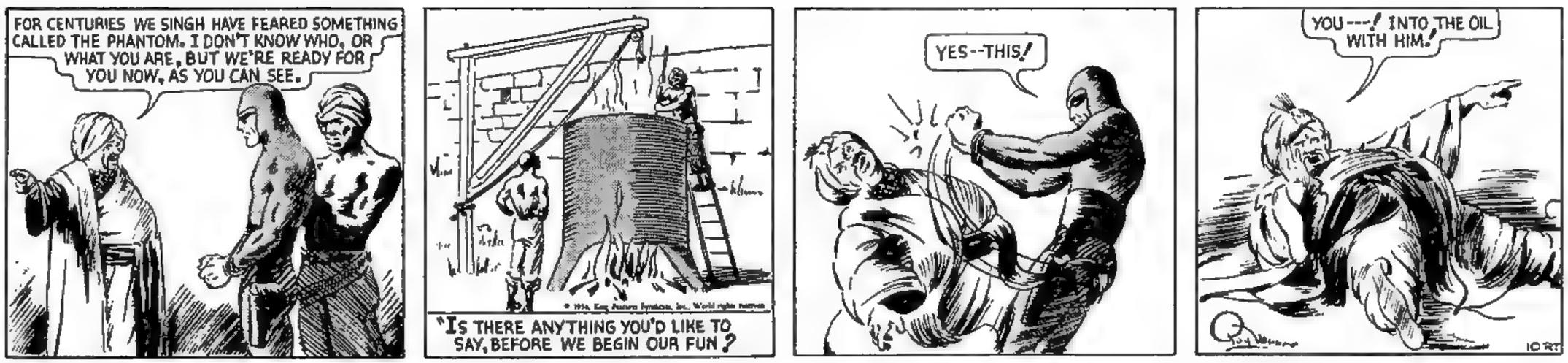
As THE PHANTOM ENTERS THE UNGUARDED SINGH GATE, A HEAVY NET SUDDENLY DROPS ON HIM, COMPLETELY ENMESHING HIM.
HOLD STILL, YOU, AND NO TRICKS OR I'LL BEAT YOU TO A PULP.
VERY CLEVER. AN OPEN DOOR FOR THE BAIT. AND I WALK INTO IT, LIKE ANY OTHER SILLY FISH.
LIKE THE RIDE?
THE SPRINGS AREN'T VERY GOOD AND THE VIEW IS AWFUL, THANK YOU.
The PHANTOM IS PULLED ALONG THE ROUGH GROUND...
WELL, MY CLEVER FRIEND! WE MEET AGAIN! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
SO I SEE.
---AND DRAGGED BEFORE KABAI SINGH!
tomorrow- LADY-IN-WAITING
10 21

SALA, HERE, SAID YOU'D COME SOMEDAY. WE'VE BEEN WAITING. WE SAW YOUR TUSSLE WITH OUR GUARD AT THE WATERFALL. MOST ENTERTAINING.
GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT.
YOU MADE A FOOL OF ME IN KRAKATAN. YOU'VE INTERFERED FOR THE LAST TIME. TAKE HIM AWAY-- BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!
10-22
IF THE RATS DON'T FINISH YOU UP. WE'LL BE BACK FOR YOU.
The PHANTOM IS THROWN INTO A DANK DUNGEON.
AT LAST, YOU HAVE COME BACK. YOU SEE, I TOO HAVE BEEN--- WAITING FOR YOU.
IN THE DIM LIGHT THE PHANTOM SEES THAT HE IS NOT ALONE. IT IS SALA!

THROWN INTO A SINGH DUNGEON, The PHANTOM FINDS SALA AWAITING HIM.
PERHAPS YOU ARE SURPRISED TO SEE ME HERE.
YES, I CERTAINLY AM. YOU'LL PARDON ME IF I DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND.
THEY'RE PREPARING THAT, OUT THERE, FOR YOU. A VAT OF BOILING OIL. IT WAS KABAI'S IDEA. HE HAS SUCH OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS. HE'S DREAMED OF THE DAY WHEN YOU'D COME HERE!
AND YOU'VE COME HERE TO GLOAT, I SUPPOSE.
GLOAT? YOU FOOL! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I LOVE YOU? I HAVE, EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, AND FIRST HEARD OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS. WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU IN KRAKATAN--
10 23
HEY!
--I KNEW YOU WEREN'T A GHOST, BUT A MAN--- MY MAN!
Tomorrow--THE LADY OR THE VAT


SALA TELLS THE PHANTOM THAT SHE LOVES HIM, THEN KISSES HIM.
NEVER KISS A DEFENSELESS MAN, SALA. WHAT WOULD YOUR BOY FRIEND, KABAI, SAY IF HE HAD SEEN THAT?
BAH, THAT HUMAN TANK! WHAT DO I CARE WHAT HE THINKS!
I CAN FREE YOU-- MAKE YOUR ESCAPE SIMPLE---IF YOU'LL TAKE ME WITH YOU.
I SEE. WELL, I'M VERY FLATTERED, SALA, BUT I NEVER COULD MAKE FALSE PROMISES. I'M SORRY.
YOU SEE, SALA, I HAVE SOMEONE ELSE ON MY MIND AND--
THAT AMERICAN GIRL? BAH. YOU'LL FORGET HER. REMEMBER THAT VAT OF BOILING OIL OUTSIDE--IT'S GETTING HOTTER AND HOTTER---AND IT'S ALL FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
10 24
CHOOSE BETWEEN ME AND THAT. YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE AND ONLY A FOOL WOULD THINK TWICE!
Continued

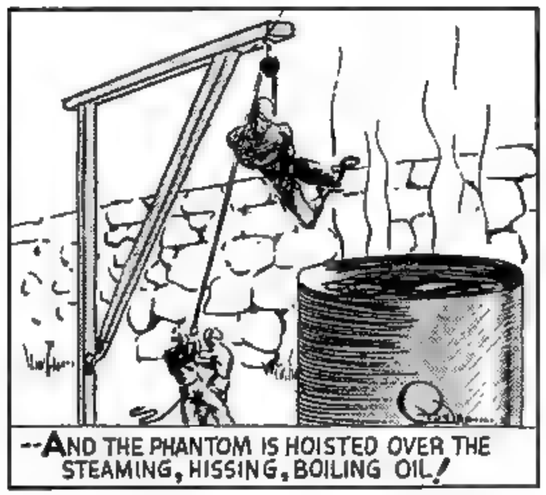
SALA TELLS THE PHANTOM SHE WILL HELP HIM ESCAPE, IF HE WILL TAKE HER WITH HIM.
YOU ARE NOT LIKE OTHER MEN. I LOVE YOU. WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
SALA, I NEVER WAS A VERY GOOD LIAR. I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER--BUT I GOT MYSELF INTO THIS FIX AND I'LL GET MYSELF OUT.
YOU FOOL! YOU FOOL! YOU REFUSE ME!
I'LL BE THERE TO SEE THEM LOWER YOU INTO THAT BOILING OIL! NO ONE WILL ENJOY IT MORE THAN I. MY LAUGHTER WILL BE THE LAST THING YOU HEAR!
10-26
NICE, SWEET GIRL! YOU COULD HAVE LIED TO HER AND GOTTEN OUT OF THIS. BUT HOW COULD I LIE TO ANY GIRL, WITH DIANA WAITING FOR ME?
AND AFTER SALA HAS GONE, THE PHANTOM SOLILOQUIZES.


FOR CENTURIES WE SINGH HAVE FEARED SOMETHING CALLED THE PHANTOM. I DON'T KNOW WHO, OR WHAT YOU ARE, BUT WE'RE READY FOR YOU NOW, AS YOU CAN SEE.
"IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY, BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR FUN?
YES--THIS!
YOU---! INTO THE OIL WITH HIM!
10-27

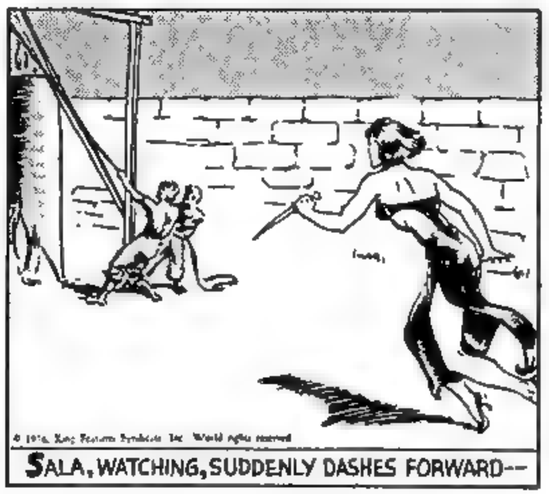
YOU CAN SMELL THE OIL FROM HERE. IT'S PIPING HOT!
DO'NT GET YOUR HAIR WET.

HURRY UP! HOIST HIM OVER THE VAT! THEN LOWER HIM--- SLOWLY, SLOWLY--!
10-28

HE--HE SCORNED ME! HE--HE WON'T HAVE LONG TO REGRET!
NEARBY, SALA WATCHES---


--AND THE PHANTOM IS HOISTED OVER THE STEAMING, HISSING, BOILING OIL!

AS THE PHANTOM IS SWUNG OVER THE EDGE OF THE VAT OF BOILING OIL--

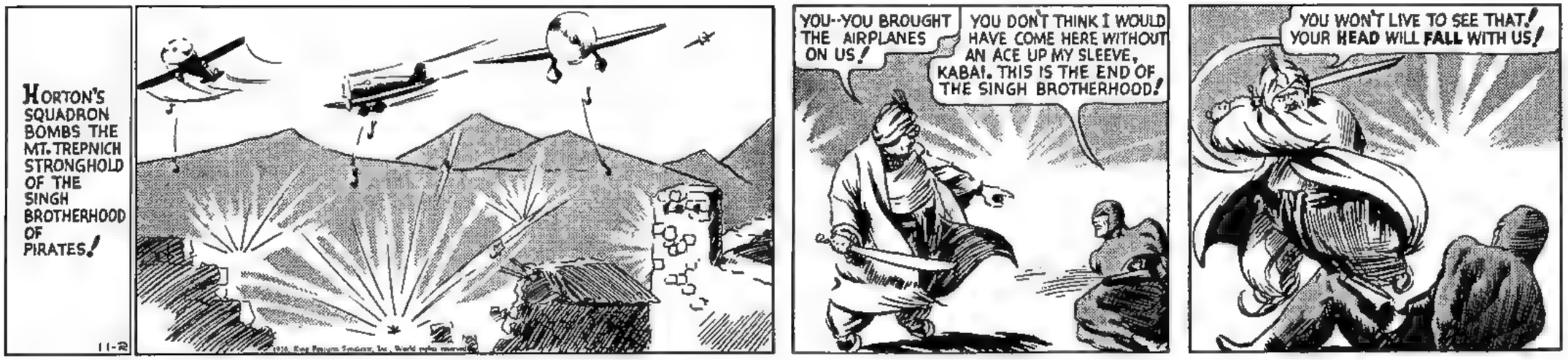

SALA, WATCHING, SUDDENLY DASHES FORWARD--

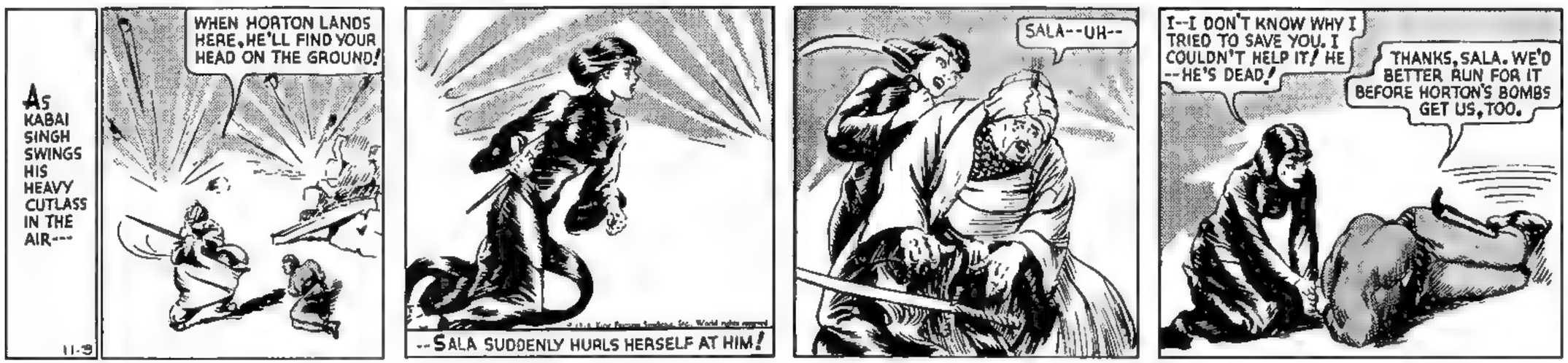
--AND SLASHES THE PULLEY ROPE WITH ONE SWEEP OF HER SHARP KNIFE---

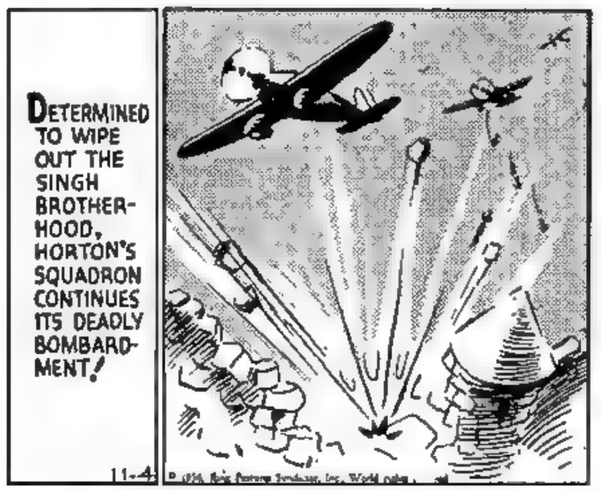
I LOVE HIM! I LOVE HIM! I'LL KILL ANYONE WHO TRIES TO TOUCH HIM!
10 28
--AND THE PHANTOM DROPS TO THE GROUND, BARELY MISSING THE EDGE OF THE VAT!

As THE PHANTOM IS ABOUT TO BE LOWERED INTO BOILING OIL, SALA RUSHES OUT SLASHING A PULLEY ROPE THAT DROPS HIM TO THE GROUND!
I'LL KILL ANYONE WHO TRIES TO TOUCH HIM!
SALA! SALA! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
I'VE JUST COME TO MY SENSES. I ALMOST LET YOU DO THIS TO HIM! I LOVE HIM, DO YOU HEAR? I LOVE HIM!
YOU--LOVE--HIM! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! YOU'RE MINE!
BAH--I HATE YOU! I ALWAYS HAVE! I ALWAYS WILL! YOU--YOU FAT, OLD MAN!
I--UH--UH--SEIZE THEM! SEIZE BOTH OF THEM! INTO THE VAT WITH BOTH OF THEM!
10-30
Tomorrow- BOOM!

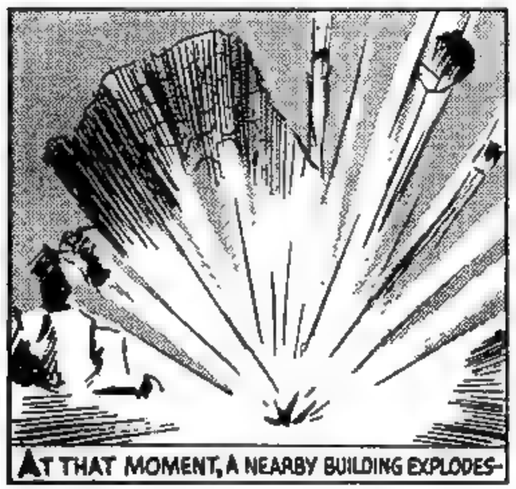
KABAI SINGH ORDERS HIS MEN TO PUT SALA AND THE PHANTOM INTO THE VAT OF BOILING OIL!
HOLD STILL, YOU WILDCAT, OR I'LL---
YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE SO MUCH, SALA. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
YOU BRAVE, FOOLISH GIRL. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS.
I--I LOVED YOU. I COULDN'T--HELP IT.
HURRY UP! PUT THEM IN THERE! LET'S GET THIS OVER!
10-31
AT THAT MOMENT, THERE IS A SUDDEN AND TERRIFIC EXPLOSION! . . . Continued-

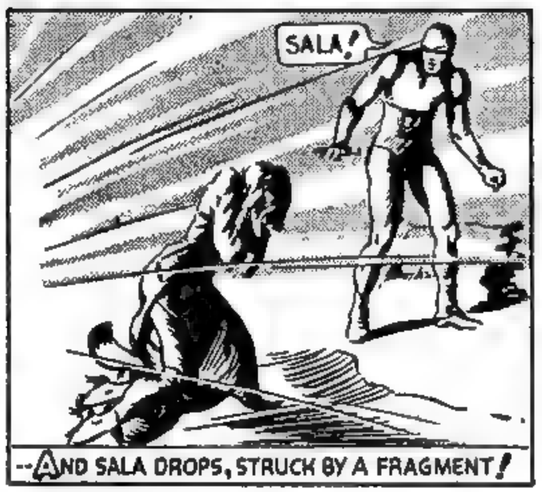

HORTON'S SQUADRON BOMBS THE MT. TREPNICH STRONGHOLD OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD OF PIRATES!
11-2
YOU--YOU BROUGHT THE AIRPLANES ON US!
YOU DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE COME HERE WITHOUT AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE, KABAI. THIS IS THE END OF THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD!
YOU WON'T LIVE TO SEE THAT! YOUR HEAD WILL FALL WITH US!


AS KABAI SINGH SWINGS HIS HEAVY CUTLASS IN THE AIR---
11-3
WHEN HORTON LANDS HERE, HE'LL FIND YOUR HEAD ON THE GROUND!
--SALA SUDDENLY HURLS HERSELF AT HIM!
SALA--UH--
I--I DON'T KNOW WHY I TRIED TO SAVE YOU. I COULDN'T HELP IT! HE --HE'S DEAD!
THANKS, SALA. WE'D BETTER RUN FOR IT BEFORE HORTON'S BOMBS GET US, TOO.


DETERMINED TO WIPE OUT THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD, HORTON'S SQUADRON CONTINUES ITS DEADLY BOMBARDMENT!
11-4

WILL--WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
SALA-YOU SAVED MY LIFE, BUT I--I CAN'T--


AT THAT MOMENT, A NEARBY BUILDING EXPLODES-


SALA!
--AND SALA DROPS, STRUCK BY A FRAGMENT!

OH--I'M DONE FOR --THROUGH--
NO, SALA--YOU'RE NOT. I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL. JUST LIE STILL.

QUIET NOW. HOW DID YOU EVER GET MIXED UP WITH THE SINGH?
OH--I'M--DYING--DYING. I--I NEVER WAS A SINGH. I WAS HERE TO--TO SPY ON THEM. I--I AM A WING--OF THE SKY-BAND.

KABAI NEVER KNEW THAT. WE WERE WAITING FOR A CHANCE--TO ATTACK THEM.
SKY BAND? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

OH--
FAINTED!
11-5
tomorrow- HORTON LANDS

HORTON'S ARMY SQUADRON LANDS AT THE WALLS OF THE DEMOLISHED CITY.
THANK HEAVEN YOU SURVIVED THE BOMBARDMENT! WHO-- WHO IS THIS?
A BRAVE GIRL WHO NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION. HAVE HER TAKEN BACK IN A PLANE.
MOST OF THE SINGHS ESCAPED, BUT THEIR LEADERS ARE DEAD AND THEIR POWER IS BROKEN. YOU CAN ROUND UP MOST OF THEM IN THE WOODS.
YOU GOT KABAI SINGH!
NO, SOMEONE ELSE BEAT ME TO IT. A STRANGE, BRAVE GIRL. WELL, THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD IS NO MORE!
THANKS TO YOU, THE MOST VICIOUS GROUP OF PIRATES THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN HAS BEEN DESTROYED!
11-6

The SINGH BROTHERHOOD HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND SALA HAS BEEN TAKEN TO A PRISON HOSPITAL.
WELL, NOW OFF TO AMERICA AND DIANA.
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. GIVE HER MY REGARDS. YOU KNOW, WE STOPPED THE SINGH JUST IN TIME.
THEY WERE TAKING TO THE AIR IN PLANES--AIR PIRACY! BRINGING DOWN MAIL PLANES AND ALL THAT. A NEW WRINKLE FOR THEM!
PLANES? BUT THE SINGH HAD NO PLANES!
THAT REMINDS ME. WHEN SALA THOUGHT SHE WAS DYING, SHE SAID SHE WAS A WING OF THE SKY-BAND. EVER HEAR OF THAT?
NOPE. I'M POSITIVE THE SINGH WERE BEHIND THESE RECENT AIR MAIL PIRACIES. WE NIPPED THEM IN THE BUD.
I'M NOT SO SURE. THE SKY-BAND --MAY MEAN I'LL HAVE TO GO TO WORK AGAIN--AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO SEE DIANA.
11-7
STARTING NEXT WEEK THE SKY-BAND!

The Phantom

By LEE FALK and RAY MOORE

Based on the Famous Adventure Strip

WHITMAN PUBLISHING CO.
RACINE, WISCONSIN

Diana's Daily Workout

THE PHANTOM

CHAPTER ONE

Precious Cargo

THE S. S. "Trotter," nearing New York Harbor, bore a curious precious cargo from the South Seas. But, for the moment, Diana Palmer, the famed young explorer, had other and immediate interests. Wholeheartedly she was enjoying

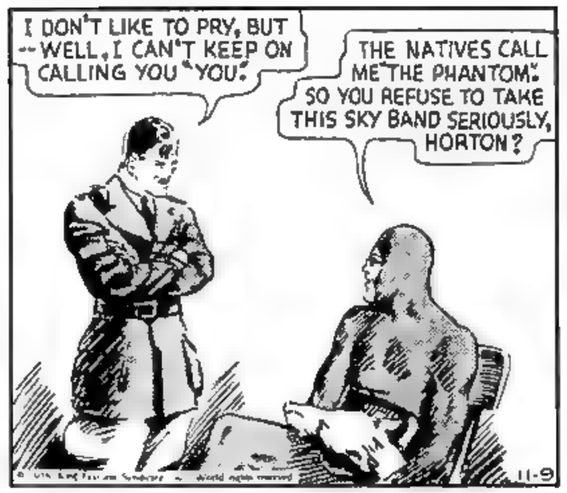
9

Left to right: pages from the first *Phantom* "Big Little Book" published in 1936. This book takes panels from "The Singh Brotherhood" continuity and adds a text accompaniment.

Chapter 2: The Sky Band

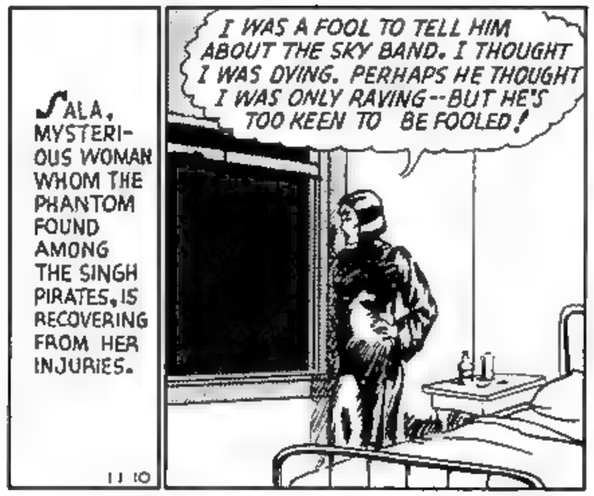
the PHANTOM®

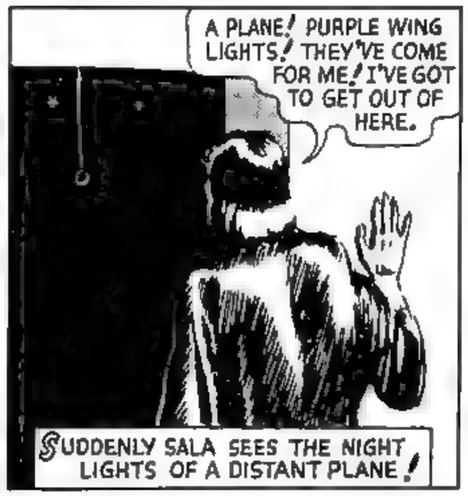
YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PART OF THE WORLD IS INVALUABLE. WHY NOT JOIN UP WITH OUR SECRET SERVICE?
I'M A ONE-MAN SECRET SERVICE, HORTON THAT STARTED CENTURIES AGO.


I DON'T LIKE TO PRY, BUT --WELL, I CAN'T KEEP ON CALLING YOU "YOU."
THE NATIVES CALL ME "THE PHANTOM." SO YOU REFUSE TO TAKE THIS SKY BAND SERIOUSLY, HORTON?
11-9

I'M POSITIVE THIS SKY BAND WAS THE OLD SINGH PIRATES, WHO ARE NOW DESTROYED.
I DON'T AGREE, HORTON. SALA IS AT THE ARMY HOSPITAL. THINK SHE'S WELL ENOUGH TO HAVE VISITORS?

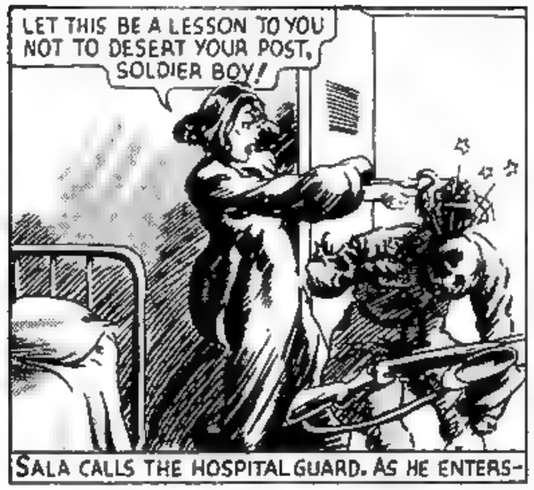
YES, SHE JUST SUFFERED FROM SHOCK AND A SLIGHT INJURY.
THINK I'LL PAY AN INFORMAL CALL. I'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HER!
tomorrow- SALA


SALA, MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WHOM THE PHANTOM FOUND AMONG THE SINGH PIRATES, IS RECOVERING FROM HER INJURIES.
I WAS A FOOL TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE SKY BAND. I THOUGHT I WAS DYING. PERHAPS HE THOUGHT I WAS ONLY RAVING--BUT HE'S TOO KEEN TO BE FOOLED!
11-10


A PLANE! PURPLE WING LIGHTS! THEY'VE COME FOR ME! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.
SUDDENLY SALA SEES THE NIGHT LIGHTS OF A DISTANT PLANE!

SOLDIER BOY, I'M LONESOME UP HERE ALL BY MYSELF.
WELL, LADY, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ON GUARD DUTY DOWN HERE, BUT I GUESS I CAN COME UP--FOR A MINUTE.

HERE I AM, LADY. I'LL GET THE DICKENS IF I'M CAUGHT OFF DUTY, BUT I GUESS A FELLOW'S GOTTA HAVE A LITTLE SOCIETY LIFE ONCE IN A WHILE.
tomorrow - BINGO!


LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU NOT TO DESERT YOUR POST, SOLDIER BOY!
SALA CALLS THE HOSPITAL GUARD. AS HE ENTERS-

SO FAR SO GOOD.
SALA CLIMBS TO THE GROUND-

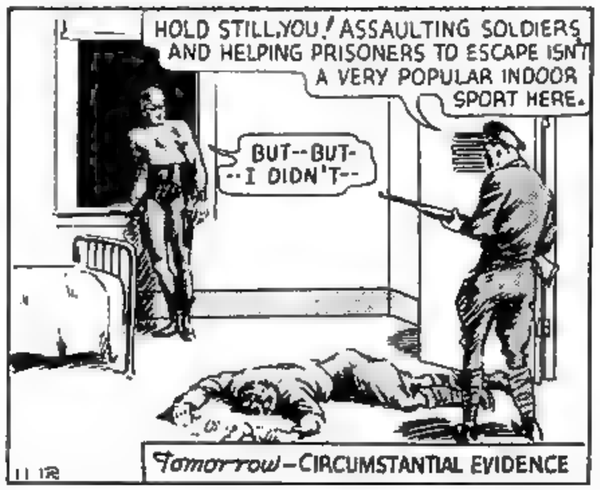
--AND DARTS INTO THE BUSHES---
11-11

KEEP QUIET, DEVIL. I'M GOING TO PAY A PRIVATE CALL ON OUR FRIEND, SALA, AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS SKY BAND.
--JUST AS THE PHANTOM REACHES the HOSPITAL!

WHAT'S THIS! LOOKS LIKE SALA HAS FLOWN THE COOP!

SHE PROBABLY HIT HIM WITH THIS PITCHER. NICE, QUIET GIRL! POOR FELLOW IS IN A BAD WAY.

A PLANE OUT THERE, LOWERING TO THE LAKE! PURPLE LIGHTS! I'LL WAGER IT'S COME FOR HER. I'VE GOT TO CATCH HER BEFORE---


HOLD STILL, YOU! ASSAULTING SOLDIERS AND HELPING PRISONERS TO ESCAPE ISN'T A VERY POPULAR INDOOR SPORT HERE.
BUT--BUT--I DIDN'T--
11-12
Tomorrow—CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

LISTEN, I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE IN A HURRY. SHE'S GETTING AWAY! I'VE GOT TO STOP HER!
SO YOU KNOW CAPTAIN HORTON, EH? YOU THINK QUICK, DON'T YOU?

FOR THE LAST TIME, I DIDN'T HIT THIS GUARD. I FOUND HIM LIKE THIS. THE GIRL WAS GONE WHEN I GOT HERE.
PAYING A SOCIAL CALL THROUGH THE BACK WINDOW, EH? YOU'RE COMING TO HEADQUARTERS!

FOOL! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT. CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? SHE'S-- OH, WHAT'S THE USE!

I HAVEN'T GOT TIME--TO ARGUE!
11-13
The PHANTOM SUDDENLY WHEELS AROUND AND DIVES HEADLONG THROUGH THE WINDOW!

WHERE THE DEUCE DID HE GO? HE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!

NOW TO GET TO THE GROUND AND STOP SALA BEFORE SHE GETS AWAY IN THAT PLANE!

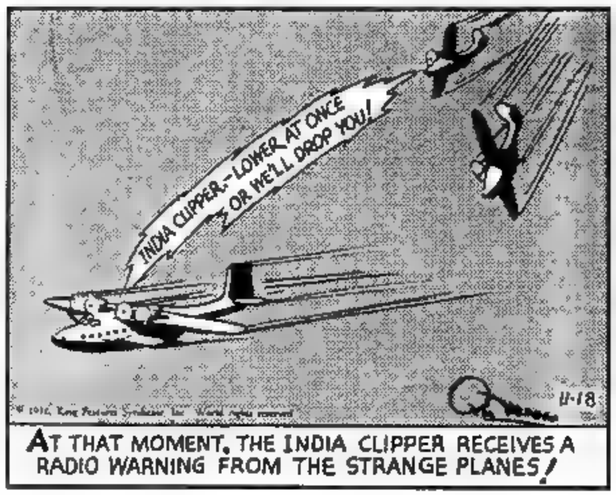
--AND I FOUND OUR CORPORAL SMITH ON THE FLOOR WITH A BASHED HEAD AND THE GIRL GONE. AND THEN HE JUMPS OUT OF THE WINDOW BEFORE I CAN SAY BOO, CAPTAIN HORTON.
HE HELPED HER ESCAPE! IT'S INCREDIBLE AND YET---

FACTS ARE FACTS! HOW HE PULLED THE WOOL OVER MY EYES! FOOLED ME! IN LEAGUE WITH THAT GIRL ALL THE TIME! SEND OUT A GENERAL ORDER FOR HIS CAPTURE!
11-14
Next Week—THE SKY BAND STRIKES!

WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS PHANTOM FELLOW WHO HELPED THE PRISONER, SALA, ESCAPE?
I--I REALLY DON'T KNOW. HE SEEMED A GOOD SORT. COLONEL DEVON, AND HELPED US ROUND UP THE SINGH--
WHAT KIND OF AN ARMY POST IS THIS? MASKED SAMARITANS SLIPPING IN AND OUT OF THE POST! I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE, CAPTAIN!
I'VE ISSUED ORDERS FOR HIS ARREST, SIR THAT IS, IF WE CAN FIND HIM. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO ARREST A SHADOW.
THEY MUST SEE MY SIGNAL! WHY DON'T THEY LOWER.
11-16
MEANWHILE, ON THE EDGE OF THE LAKE, SALA SIGNALS THE STRANGE PLANE BEARING PURPLE NIGHT LIGHTS...
IT'S NOT FAR TO THE LAKE, DEVIL. IF I CAN ONLY GET THERE BEFORE SHE GETS AWAY!
AND THE HUNTED PHANTOM RACES THROUGH THE DARK JUNGLE!

THEY'VE SEEN MY SIGNAL! THEY'RE LOWERING TO THE LAKE!
HURRY! I'M BEING FOLLOWED!
SALA REACHES THE STRANGE AMPHIBIAN BEARING PURPLE NIGHT LIGHTS...
11-17
TOO LATE! THERE SHE GOES! AND THE ARMY AND NAVY GUNNING FOR ME BECAUSE SHE BASHED A GUARD'S SKULL! PURPLE NIGHT LIGHTS! THAT MUST BE THE SKY BAND!
VALUABLE CARGO THIS TRIP, BOYS. IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER TURN BACK. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES.
THE CLIPPER CAN TAKE A TYPHOON IN HER STRIDE, CHIEF, BUT WE'LL BE CAREFUL.
MEANWHILE, AT THE BATAVIA AIRPORT, THE FAMED INDIA CLIPPER PREPARES TO TAKE OFF!

ARE MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON ME, JACK? AREN'T THERE TWO PLANES AHEAD?
RIGHT! PURPLE NIGHT LIGHTS—OF ALL THINGS! WHAT ARE THEY DOING WAY OUT HERE?
AS THE INDIA CLIPPER SPEEDS NORTHWARD OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN


INDIA CLIPPER,—LOWER AT ONCE OR WE'LL DROP YOU!
11-18
AT THAT MOMENT, THE INDIA CLIPPER RECEIVES A RADIO WARNING FROM THE STRANGE PLANES!

TELL THEM TO RUN ALONG HOME AND STOP JOKING. WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR GAMES--
KEEP CLEAR. PLEASE STATE YOUR IDENTITY. KEEP CLEAR. KEEP CLEAR---

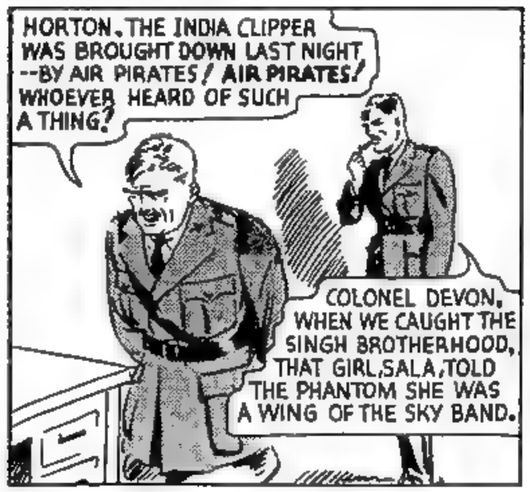
THEY WEREN'T --JOKING--
IN REPLY, THE UNKNOWN PLANES DIVE CLOSE TO THE NOSE OF THE INDIA CLIPPER! THERE IS A RATTLE OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE---

11-19
The INDIA CLIPPER LOWERS TO THE WATER, HELPLESS BEFORE THE MACHINE-GUN FIRE OF THE STRANGE PLANES!

KEEP YOUR HANDS UP AND YOU WON'T GET HURT.
WHO--WHO ARE YOU?

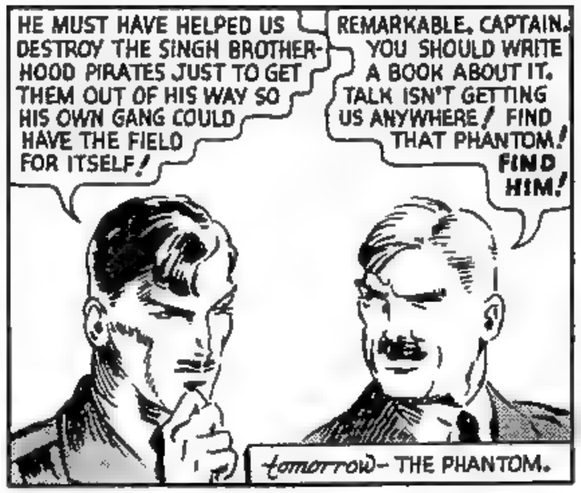
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW, IF I TOLD YOU. WHAT'S THE MATTER, FAT BOY? SCARED?
THIS--THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
MAIL

WE FEEL GENEROUS TODAY. WE'RE LETTING YOU OFF EASY. BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU WON'T RADIO FOR HELP---
MAIL


HORTON, THE INDIA CLIPPER WAS BROUGHT DOWN LAST NIGHT --BY AIR PIRATES! AIR PIRATES! WHOEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING?
COLONEL DEVON, WHEN WE CAUGHT THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD, THAT GIRL, SALA, TOLD THE PHANTOM SHE WAS A WING OF THE SKY BAND.

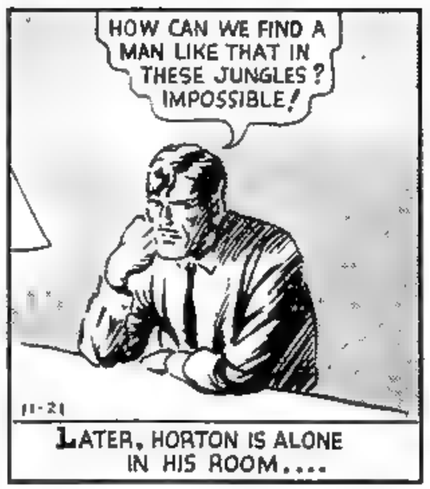
SKY BAND! PHANTOM! WING! WHY HAVEN'T YOU PICKED UP THIS PHANTOM, AND THE GIRL?
THE WHOLE POST IS SEARCHING, SIR. IT'S EASIER TO PICK UP QUICK-SILVER!

I'M ALL MIXED UP, SIR. I THOUGHT THE PHANTOM WAS ON OUR SIDE, BUT HE HELPED THE GIRL ESCAPE. I'M POSITIVE HE'S THE BRAINS OF THE SKY BAND!


HE MUST HAVE HELPED US DESTROY THE SINGH BROTHERHOOD PIRATES JUST TO GET THEM OUT OF HIS WAY SO HIS OWN GANG COULD HAVE THE FIELD FOR ITSELF!
REMARKABLE, CAPTAIN. YOU SHOULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT IT. TALK ISN'T GETTING US ANYWHERE! FIND THAT PHANTOM! FIND HIM!
tomorrow- THE PHANTOM.

HORTON, THE SKY BAND STRUCK AGAIN LAST NIGHT! DISABLED A PLANE AND KILLED A PASSENGER! WHERE IS THIS PHANTOM?
COLONEL, WE'RE DOING OUR BEST. OUR NATIVE SOLDIERS ARE AFRAID TO SEARCH FOR HIM. SUPERSTITIOUS. THEY THINK HE'S CENTURIES OLD!

YOU KNOW THAT'S NONSENSE! YOU LET THAT MAN ESCAPE! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM! HE'S LEADER OF THAT SKY BAND! THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS ARE DRIVING ME CRAZY!
AND YOU, SIR, ARE DRIVING ME -- YES, SIR.

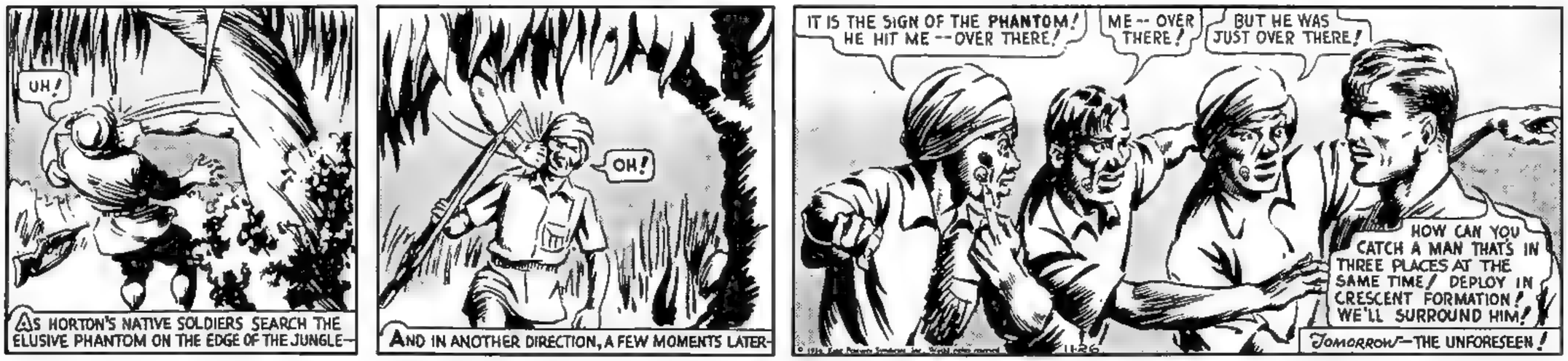

HOW CAN WE FIND A MAN LIKE THAT IN THESE JUNGLES? IMPOSSIBLE!
LATER, HORTON IS ALONE IN HIS ROOM....

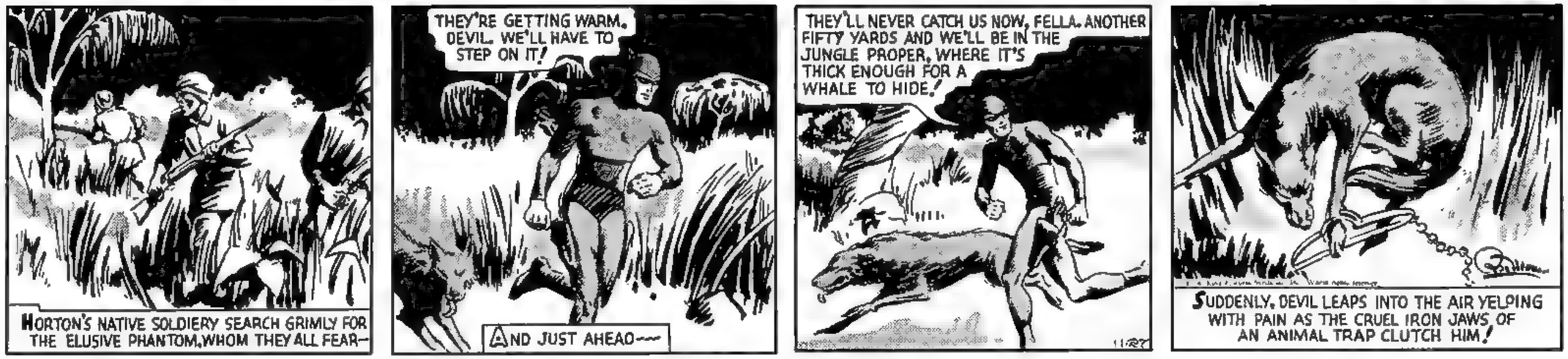
YOU--DARED --COME HERE!
TAKE IT EASY, HORTON. YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A FRIENDLY LITTLE CHAT.
Continued

As NATIVE TROOPS SEARCH FOR THE PHANTOM, HE MAKES AN UNEXPECTED AND BOLD VISIT TO CAPTAIN HORTON!
HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET OVER THE WALLS WITHOUT BEING SEEN?
NEVER MIND THAT, HORTON. I WANT YOU TO CALL YOUR SOLDIER BOYS OFF OF ME. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE SKY BAND!
THAT'S A LIE! YOU HELPED SALA ESCAPE! SHE ADMITTED SHE WAS A WING OF THE SKY BAND. YOU FOOLED ME ONCE BY HELPING US DESTROY THE SINGH PIRATES.
I KNOW NOW THAT YOU JUST WANTED TO GET THEM OUT OF YOUR WAY, BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO MUCH COMPETITION FOR YOUR AIR GANG!
THAT SOUNDS NICE, HORTON, BUT NONE OF IT HAPPENS TO BE TRUE. I'M OUT TO BREAK UP THE SKY BAND, MYSELF.
WHY, I THINK YOU EVEN HELPED DIANA PALMERS -- AND SAVED MY LIFE, JUST TO THROW ME OFF THE SCENT!
LEAVE DIANA OUT OF THIS, HORTON, OR I'M APT TO LOSE PATIENCE WITH THIS PHONY LOGIC OF YOURS!

I SUPPOSE YOU REALIZE THAT YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS ARMY POST ALIVE!
I GOT IN. I'LL GET OUT. HORTON I LOOKED UPON YOU AS A FRIEND. THIS SKY BAND IS DANGEROUS. I WANTED TO WORK WITH YOUR MEN. NOW I'LL HAVE TO WORK ALONE.
STOP BLUFFING! I WARN YOU, THE MINUTE YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM, I'LL SOUND THE ALARM!
WELL, DON'T STRAIN YOUR VOCAL CORDS, CAPTAIN. I CAN SEE THAT I WASTED TIME COMING TO SEE YOU. GOODBYE!
FOOL! HE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THE CAMP!
SENTRIES! ON YOUR TOES! BUGLER! CALL OUT THE MEN! WE'VE GOT THE PHANTOM!
tomorrow— DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS

As CAPTAIN HORTON HURRIEDLY MOBILIZES THE EN-CAMPMENT TO TRAP THE PHANTOM ---
HE CAN'T GET OVER THE WALL! I'VE DOUBLED THE SENTRIES! WHEN YOU SEE HIM, SHOOT LOW. HE MUST BE TAKEN ALIVE!
SH-H-DEVIL. THERE'S ONE OF THOSE BAD SENTRIES, JUST DYING TO TAKE A SHOT AT ME.
NEAR THE WALL, THE PHANTOM TOSSES A STONE INTO THE AIR---
I HEARD A NOISE OVER HERE! QUICK, HE'S OVER HERE!
THE SENTRY RUSHES TOWARDS THE SPOT WERE THE STONE LANDED---
DOUBLE-TIME, DEVIL! THEY'LL BE AFTER US WITH BLOOD IN THEIR EYES!
Tomorrow- SMACK, SMACK.


UH!
AS HORTON'S NATIVE SOLDIERS SEARCH THE ELUSIVE PHANTOM ON THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE—
OH!
AND IN ANOTHER DIRECTION, A FEW MOMENTS LATER-
IT IS THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM! HE HIT ME --OVER THERE!
ME -- OVER THERE!
BUT HE WAS JUST OVER THERE!
HOW CAN YOU CATCH A MAN THAT'S IN THREE PLACES AT THE SAME TIME! DEPLOY IN CRESCENT FORMATION! WE'LL SURROUND HIM!
Tomorrow—THE UNFORESEEN!


HORTON'S NATIVE SOLDIERY SEARCH GRIMLY FOR THE ELUSIVE PHANTOM, WHOM THEY ALL FEAR—
THEY'RE GETTING WARM, DEVIL. WE'LL HAVE TO STEP ON IT!
AND JUST AHEAD—
THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US NOW, FELLA. ANOTHER FIFTY YARDS AND WE'LL BE IN THE JUNGLE PROPER, WHERE IT'S THICK ENOUGH FOR A WHALE TO HIDE!
SUDDENLY, DEVIL LEAPS INTO THE AIR YELPING WITH PAIN AS THE CRUEL IRON JAWS OF AN ANIMAL TRAP CLUTCH HIM!

JUST AS THE PHANTOM IS ABOUT TO MAKE GOOD HIS ESCAPE, DEVIL IS CAUGHT BY A HIDDEN ANIMAL TRAP.
DEVIL!
POOR FELLA. THIS TRAP IS-- STRONG! BUT YOUR LEG ISN'T BROKEN. THERE COMES HORTON'S SOLDIER BOYS!
CAN'T BE HELPED, DEVIL. I COULDN'T RUN AWAY AND LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS. ANOTHER MINUTE AND I'LL HAVE YOU FREE.
LOOKS LIKE THE CHASE IS OVER! HOLD STILL AND KEEP YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM YOUR GUNS. I ARREST YOU ON CHARGES OF AIR PIRACY AND MURDER!
Continued—

YOUR LEG'S ALL RIGHT, FELLA. GET GOING!
COME ON, WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME OUT HERE! THE WOLF GOES WITH US, TOO!

WOLF? BETTER DEAD!
BUT AS DEVIL ESCAPES FROM THE CIRCLE OF SOLDIERS-

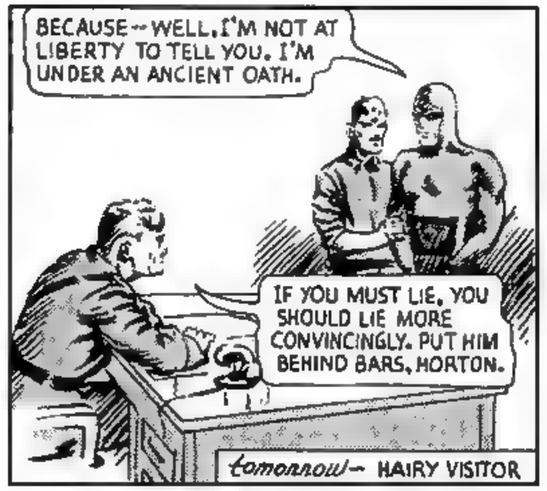
SHOOT DEVIL? WHY, YOU--

11-30
THE SQUAD MOBS THE PHANTOM AND DEVIL ESCAPES IN THE CONFUSION!

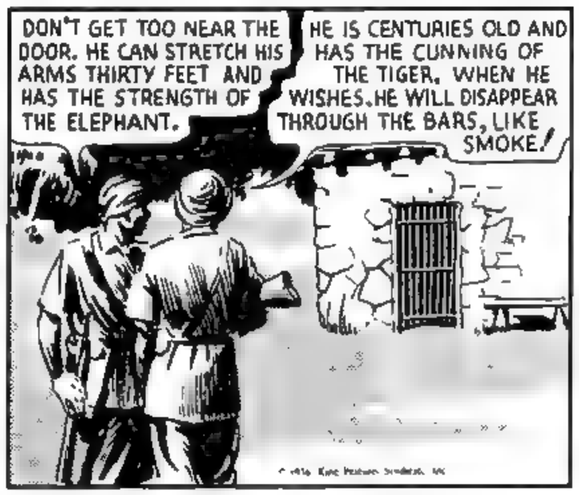
SO YOU ARE THE PHANTOM? I HEARD OF YOU WHEN I WAS A CUB. JUST AS A MATTER OF CURIOSITY, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
OLD ENOUGH TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT, COLONEL.

I SEE! YOU ARE GOING TO BE TAKEN TO BOMBAY TO FACE CHARGES OF PIRACY AND MURDER-- AS THE LEADER OR MEMBER OF THE SKY BAND!
MY DEAR COLONEL, HOW MANY TIMES MUST I REPEAT? I AM NOT A MEMBER OF THE SKY BAND!

WHAT IS MORE, I KNOW NOTHING OF THE SKY BAND. MY INTEREST IN THE BAND IS THE SAME AS YOURS. I WANT TO DESTROY IT!
REALLY? WHY?
12-1


BECAUSE-- WELL, I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO TELL YOU. I'M UNDER AN ANCIENT OATH.
IF YOU MUST LIE, YOU SHOULD LIE MORE CONVINCINGLY. PUT HIM BEHIND BARS, HORTON.
tomorrow-- HAIRY VISITOR

COLONEL DEVON, IT'S NOT WISE TO HAVE NATIVE SOLDIERS GUARDING THE PRISON. THEY'RE SUPERSTITIOUS --THEY FEAR HIM.
TOMMYROT! EVEN IF THEY ARE, HE CAN'T GET OUT AND THEY CAN'T GET IN. I'M KEEPING THE KEYS, MYSELF!

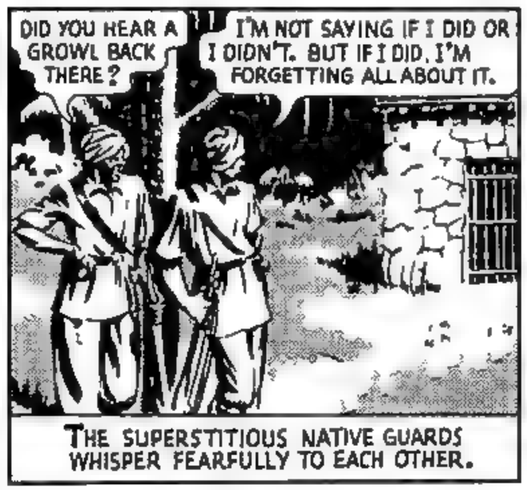

DON'T GET TOO NEAR THE DOOR. HE CAN STRETCH HIS ARMS THIRTY FEET AND HAS THE STRENGTH OF THE ELEPHANT.
HE IS CENTURIES OLD AND HAS THE CUNNING OF THE TIGER. WHEN HE WISHES, HE WILL DISAPPEAR THROUGH THE BARS, LIKE SMOKE!

A FINE MESS I'M IN! CAGED LIKE A COYOTE, WHILE THE SKY BAND GOES MERRILY ON. SALA MUST BE LAUGHING HER HEAD OFF. WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE--
THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY HEARS SOFT, PADDED FOOTSTEPS----
12-2

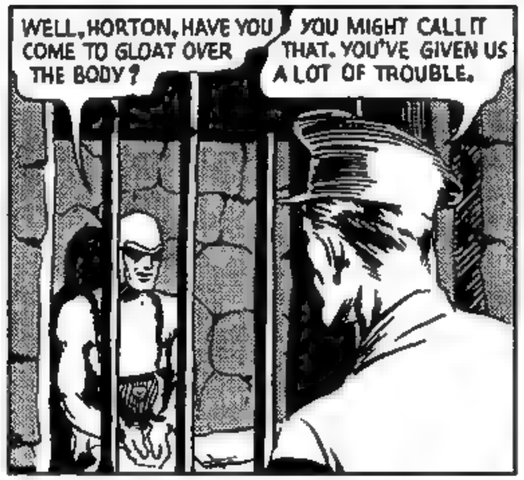
DEVIL! AT LEAST YOU HAVEN'T DESERTED ME!
Tomorrow— THE RING

QUIET, DEVIL. CATCH THIS WHEN IT DROPS AND DON'T LOSE IT. GO TO THE BANDAR, TO GURAN-BANDAR, GURAN.

12 3
THE PHANTOM PULLS OFF HIS DEATH'S HEAD RING, THE ANCIENT SIGN OF THE PHANTOM, KNOWN BY ALL JUNGLE PEOPLE!


DID YOU HEAR A GROWL BACK THERE?
I'M NOT SAYING IF I DID OR I DIDN'T. BUT IF I DID, I'M FORGETTING ALL ABOUT IT.
THE SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVE GUARDS WHISPER FEARFULLY TO EACH OTHER.

AND DEVIL VANISHES INTO THE BRUSH, CARRYING THE SIGNET RING IN HIS SHARP TEETH!


WELL, HORTON, HAVE YOU COME TO GLOAT OVER THE BODY?
YOU MIGHT CALL IT THAT. YOU'VE GIVEN US A LOT OF TROUBLE.

YOUR SKY BAND SEEMS TO OPERATE JUST AS WELL WITHOUT YOU. ANOTHER AIR MAIL ROBBERY LAST NIGHT! ANOTHER PILOT KILLED! YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY TO ANSWER FOR!

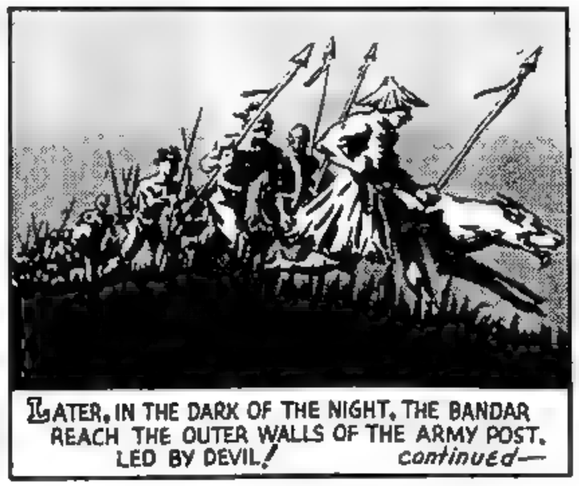
FOOLS, YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME OUT OF HERE! YOU DUNDERHEADS WILL NEVER STOP THEM! HORTON, IN THE NAME OF--
DON'T START THAT AGAIN. AT LEAST, WE'VE GOT YOU! THAT'S A GOOD START!

IT'S THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM! HIS RING!
HE CALLS. WE GO TO HIM.
12-4
MEANWHILE, DEVIL HAS REACHED GURAN, WITCH-DOCTOR OF THE BANDAR, THE PIGMY POISON PEOPLE!

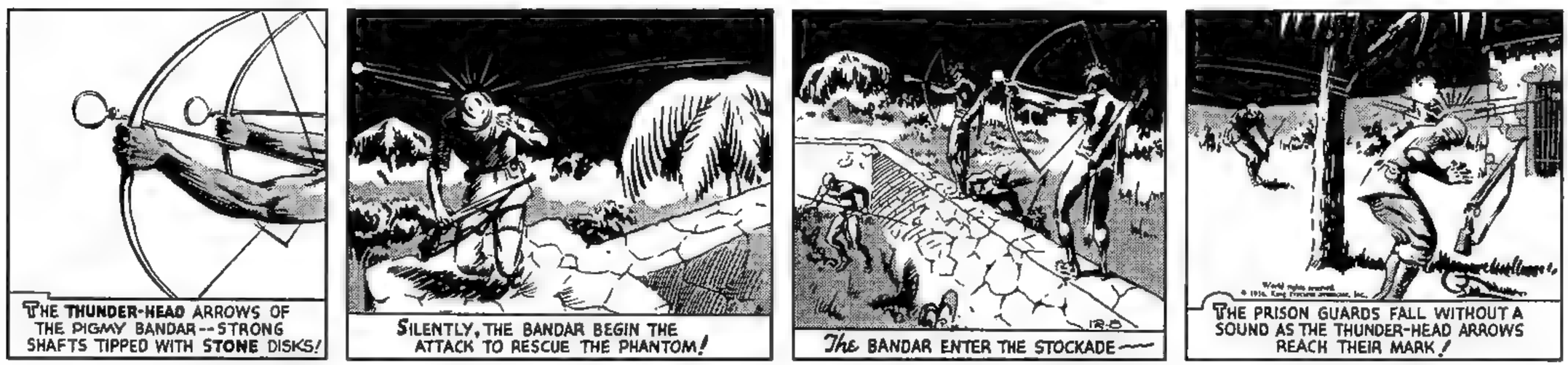
TOMORROW THEY TAKE HIM TO BOMBAY TO HANG HIM!
THEY CANNOT KILL HIM. HE WILL RETURN, AS HE ALWAYS HAS--TO AVENGE HIMSELF ON ALL OF US!

COLONEL DEVON, THE SENTRIES SHOULD BE DOUBLED TONIGHT! THE PHANTOM IS DESPERATE. THIS IS HIS LAST CHANCE TO ESCAPE.
DO AS YOU WISH, HORTON.
12-5

HE COULDN'T BLAST HIS WAY OUT OF THAT CELL AND THIS KEY STAYS RIGHT WITH ME! SO YOU SEE THERE'S NO DANGER OF HIS ESCAPING.

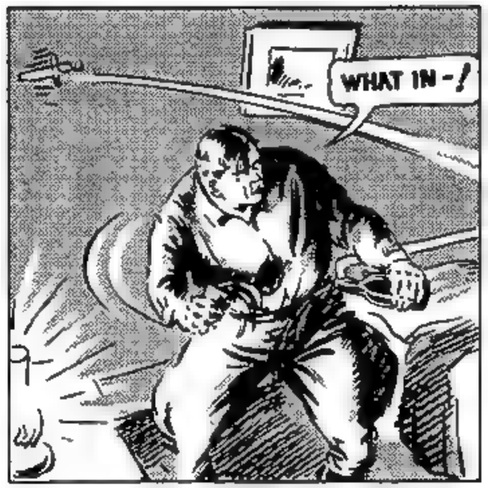

LATER, IN THE DARK OF THE NIGHT, THE BANDAR REACH THE OUTER WALLS OF THE ARMY POST, LED BY DEVIL!
continued—

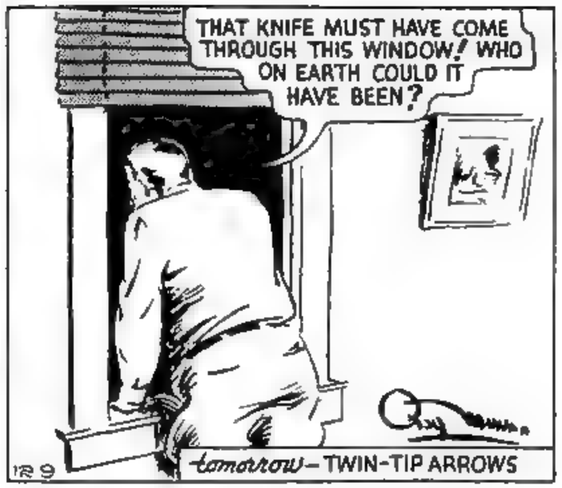
SILENTLY, GURAN, WITCH-DOCTOR OF THE PIGMY PEOPLE, CLIMBS OVER THE MILITARY STOCKADE.
AND WHILE THE NATIVE SOLDIERS DOZE—
WE HAVE COME.
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T FAIL ME, GURAN. GOOD WORK, DEVIL.
NO POISON, GURAN. KILL NO ONE. USE THUNDER-HEAD ARROWS. QUIETLY. QUICKLY.
tomorrow-THUNDER-HEAD

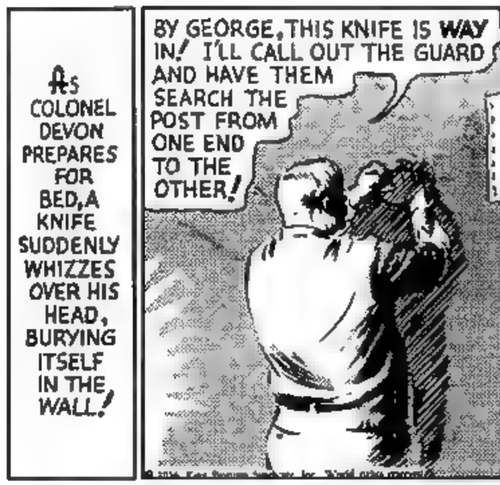

THE THUNDER-HEAD ARROWS OF THE PIGMY BANDAR--STRONG SHAFTS TIPPED WITH STONE DISKS!
SILENTLY, THE BANDAR BEGIN THE ATTACK TO RESCUE THE PHANTOM!
The BANDAR ENTER THE STOCKADE—
THE PRISON GUARDS FALL WITHOUT A SOUND AS THE THUNDER-HEAD ARROWS REACH THEIR MARK!

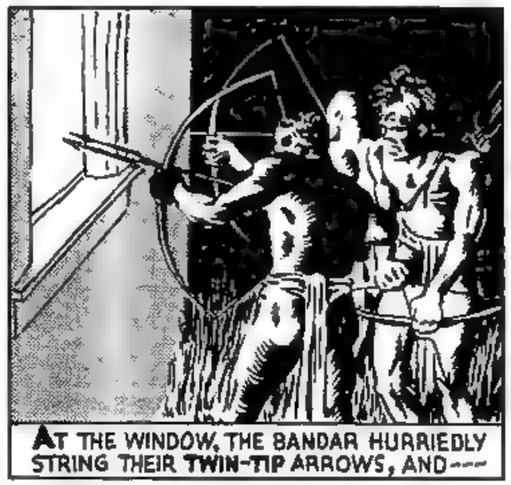
GOOD WORK, GURAN. THE COLONEL HAS THE KEYS TO THE JAIL. HE'S IN THE BIG HOUSE. DON'T HURT HIM. USE TWIN-TIP ARROWS. YOU KNOW HOW.

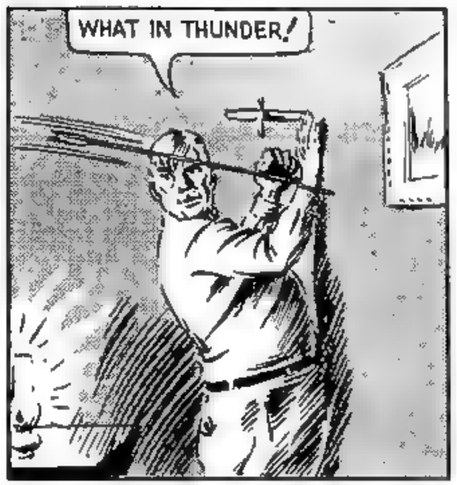
WELL, NOW FOR A LITTLE SNIFTER AND THEN TO BED. WELL, MAYBE TWO LITTLE SNIFTERS.
AND AS COLONEL DEVON PREPARES FOR BED---

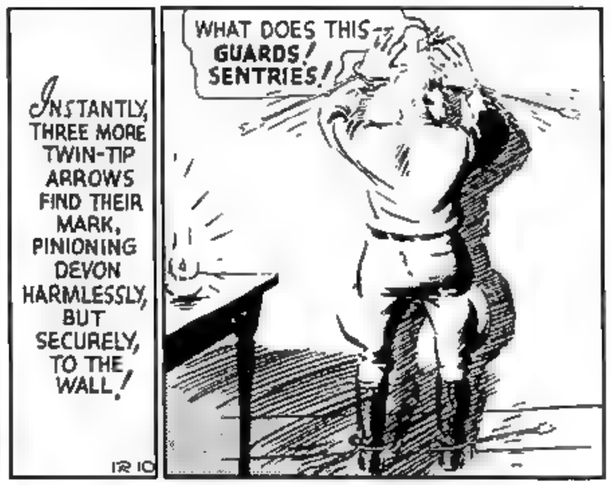

WHAT IN -!


THAT KNIFE MUST HAVE COME THROUGH THIS WINDOW! WHO ON EARTH COULD IT HAVE BEEN?
12 9
tomorrow—TWIN-TIP ARROWS

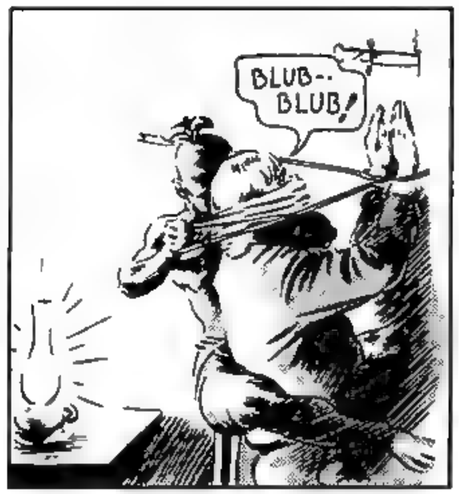

AS COLONEL DEVON PREPARES FOR BED, A KNIFE SUDDENLY WHIZZES OVER HIS HEAD, BURYING ITSELF IN THE WALL!
BY GEORGE, THIS KNIFE IS WAY IN! I'LL CALL OUT THE GUARD AND HAVE THEM SEARCH THE POST FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER!

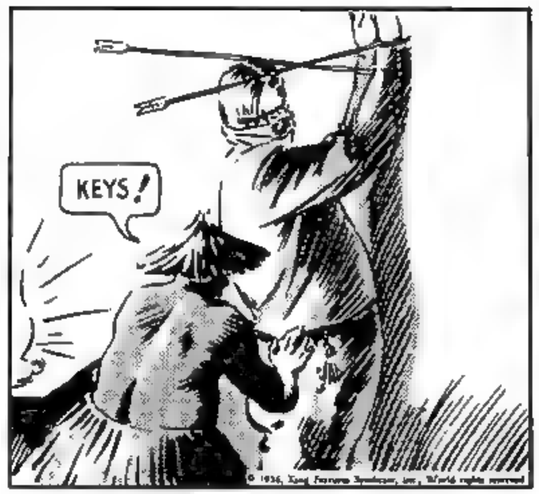

AT THE WINDOW, THE BANDAR HURRIEDLY STRING THEIR TWIN-TIP ARROWS, AND---


WHAT IN THUNDER!


INSTANTLY, THREE MORE TWIN-TIP ARROWS FIND THEIR MARK, PINIONING DEVON HARMLESSLY, BUT SECURELY, TO THE WALL!
12 10
WHAT DOES THIS -- GUARDS! SENTRIES!

COLONEL DEVON IS PINIONED TO THE WALL BY TWIN-TIP ARROWS, HARMLESSLY BUT SECURELY!
BANDAR! HOW DID THEY GET IN ? GUARDS! SENTRIES!


BLUB-- BLUB!


KEYS!

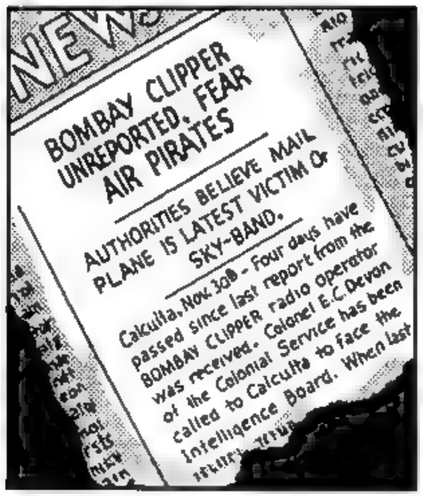
THOUGHT I HEARD SOME STRANGE NOISES OUT THERE. GUESS I'D BETTER GO OUT AND INVESTIGATE!
MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN HORTON AWAKENS!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?
I DON'T KNOW, CAPTAIN. OU--MY HEAD. SOMETHING JUST --HIT ME! I--DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING. I GUESS I FELL OFF THE WALL!
AND AS HORTON MAKES HIS ROUNDS---

THE JAIL IS EMPTY! THE PHANTOM IS-- GONE!

COLONEL DEVON--HE'S GONE! COLONEL DEVON! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

FINE WORK, GURAN. BEST OF ALL, NO ONE INJURED. WHAT DID THE COLONEL SAY WHEN YOU CLIMBED UPON HIM AND GAGGED HIM?
HE SAID MANY THINGS, MOSTLY UNREPEATABLE.
NEXT WEEK-- PURPLE LIGHTS of the SKY BAND


NEWS
BOMBAY CLIPPER UNREPORTED, FEAR AIR PIRATES
AUTHORITIES BELIEVE MAIL PLANE IS LATEST VICTIM OF SKY-BAND.
Calcutta, Nov. 30th - Four days have passed since last report from the BOMBAY CLIPPER radio operator was received. Colonel E.C. Devon of the Colonial Service has been called to Calcutta to face the Intelligence Board. When last

COLONEL DEVON, THIS MAN, THE PHANTOM, IS THE ONLY CLUE WE'VE HAD TO THE SKY BAND. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
I WROTE A FULL REPORT ON THAT INCIDENT, MAJOR. HE WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE JAIL.

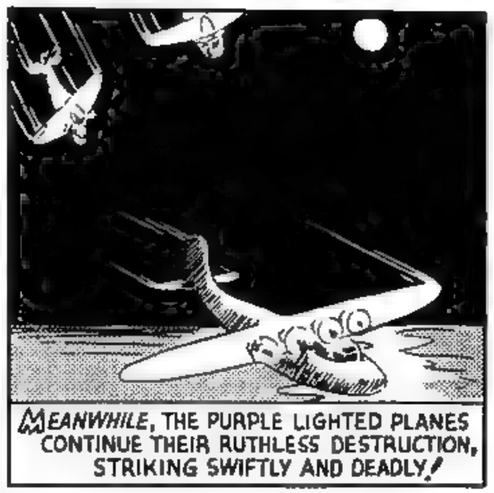
AND THE WOMAN, SALA, WHO ESCAPED FROM YOUR PRISON HOSPITAL? WASN'T SHE ADMITTEDLY A MEMBER OF THE SKY BAND?
YES, AND THIS PHANTOM HELPED HER TO ESCAPE. THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

EIGHT MAIL PLANES HAVE BEEN DOWNED IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS BY PLANES BEARING PURPLE NIGHT LIGHTS. ASIATIC AVIATION IS PARALYZED! THE SKY BAND MUST BE DESTROYED.
12-14
tomorrow—THE MAJOR'S HOBBY.

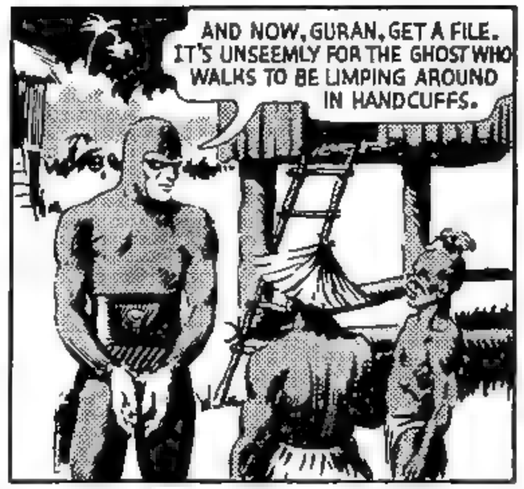
COLONEL DEVON, THIS SKY BAND IS MAKING US LOOK FOOLISH. ALL WE KNOW ABOUT THEM IS THAT THEIR PLANES HAVE PURPLE NIGHT LIGHTS.
AND THAT THIS PHANTOM IS THEIR LEADER!

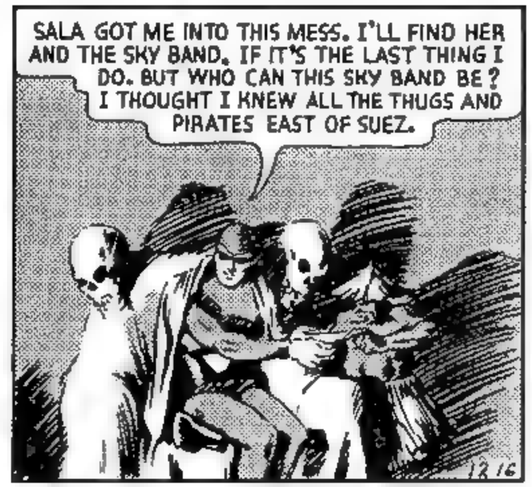
ARE YOU SO SURE? YOU KNOW, THE PHANTOM'S A LITTLE HOBBY OF MINE. STUDYING SEA HISTORY, I FIND MENTION OF HIM FOR THE LAST FOUR CENTURIES--ALWAYS FIGHTING AGAINST PIRACY.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT NONSENSE, MAJOR

NOT EXACTLY. I DON'T THINK HE'S THAT OLD. HE MAY BE A MEMBER OF A SECRET ORDER, OR A FAMILY, THAT HAS COME DOWN THROUGH THE AGES, PLEDGED TO FIGHT PIRACY OF ALL KINDS.
BOSH! SENTIMENTAL NONSENSE! HE'S THE SKY BAND LEADER! I'LL BET MY BOOTS ON IT!
12-15

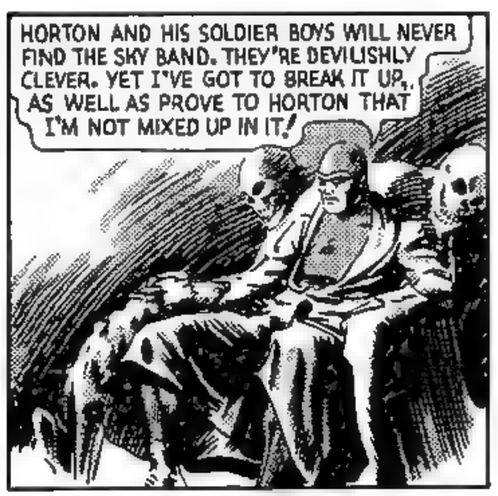

MEANWHILE, THE PURPLE LIGHTED PLANES CONTINUE THEIR RUTHLESS DESTRUCTION, STRIKING SWIFTLY AND DEADLY!

HE HAS RETURNED! THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
I HAVE RETURNED, THANKS TO YOU, MY LOYAL BANDAR.


AND NOW, GURAN, GET A FILE. IT'S UNSEEMLY FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS TO BE LIMPING AROUND IN HANDCUFFS.


SALA GOT ME INTO THIS MESS. I'LL FIND HER AND THE SKY BAND. IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO. BUT WHO CAN THIS SKY BAND BE? I THOUGHT I KNEW ALL THE THUGS AND PIRATES EAST OF SUEZ.
12-16

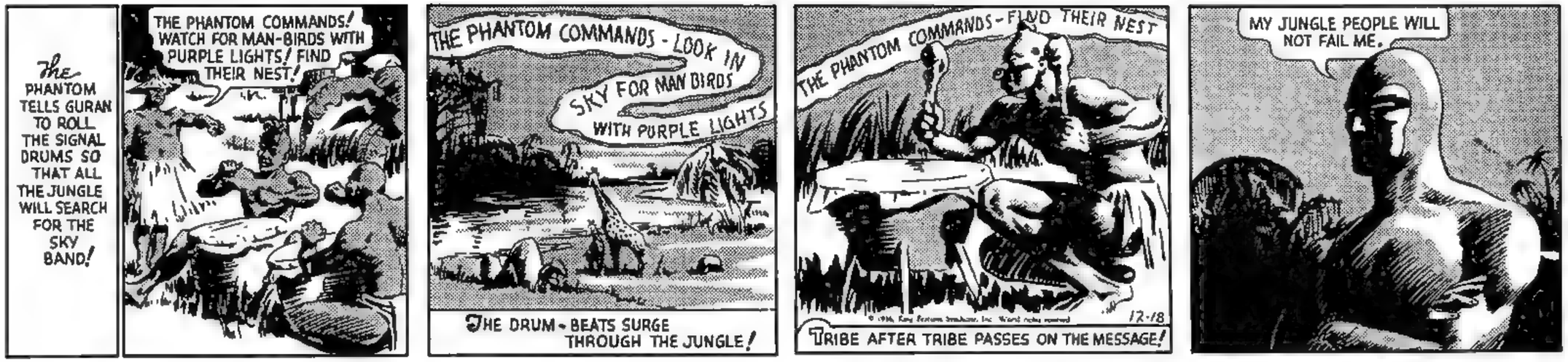
I'LL GET THEM OR--OUCH! GURAN, I THINK THE JOB IS FINISHED. YOU CAN HAVE THE HANDCUFFS, BUT I WANT TO KEEP MY WRISTS. I MAY NEED THEM.
tomorrow - HIGH MATTERS

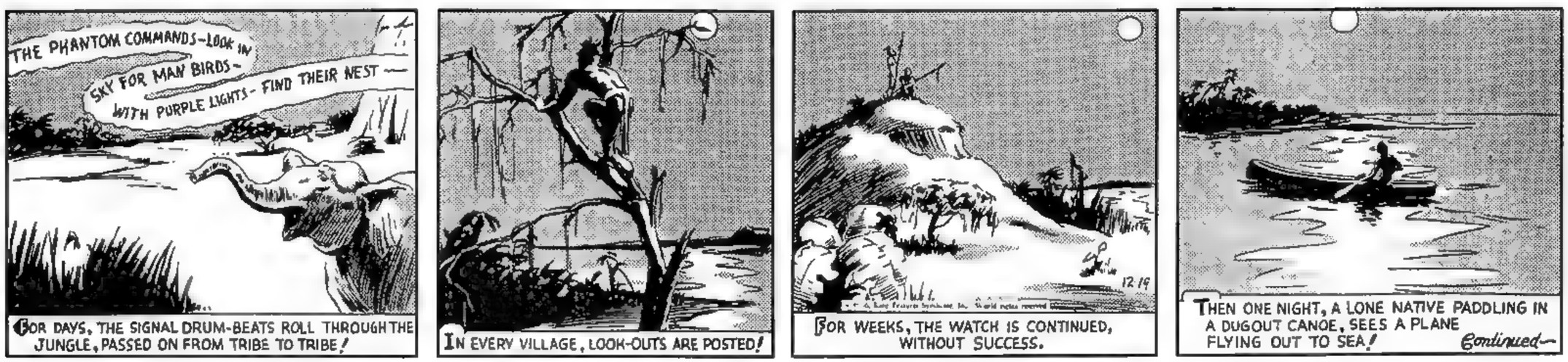

HORTON AND HIS SOLDIER BOYS WILL NEVER FIND THE SKY BAND. THEY'RE DEVILISHLY CLEVER. YET I'VE GOT TO BREAK IT UP, AS WELL AS PROVE TO HORTON THAT I'M NOT MIXED UP IN IT!

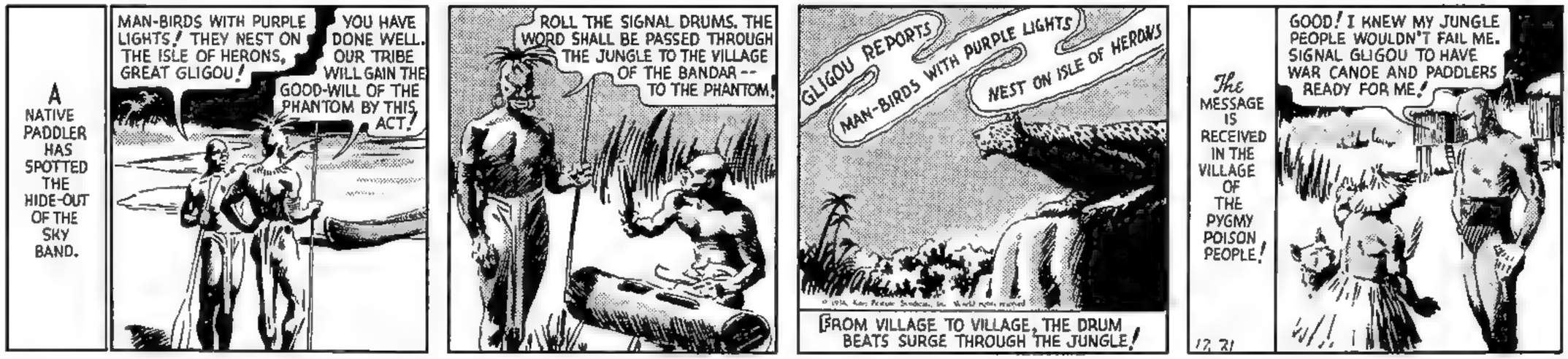
GURAN, COME WITH ME. I WISH TO HAVE PALAVER WITH YOU. I HAVE HIGH MATTERS TO DISCUSS.
I COME.

GURAN, I WANT ALL THE JUNGLE PEOPLE BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT WATERS TO WATCH IN THE SKY FOR MAN-BIRDS WITH PURPLE LIGHTS!
MAN-BIRDS WITH PURPLE LIGHTS?
12-17

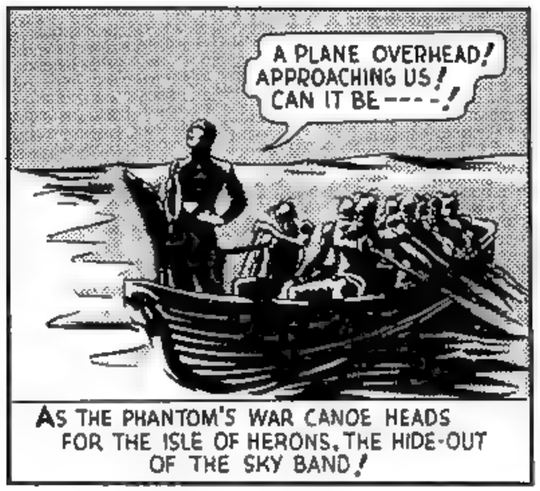
YES, PURPLE LIGHTS! ROLL THE SIGNAL DRUMS! THE JUNGLE PEOPLE WILL NOT FAIL ME. I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE NEST OF THESE MAN-BIRDS IS!
IT WILL BE DONE AS YOU SAY.
tomorrow - THE SIGNAL DRUMS ROLL


The PHANTOM TELLS GURAN TO ROLL THE SIGNAL DRUMS SO THAT ALL THE JUNGLE WILL SEARCH FOR THE SKY BAND!
THE PHANTOM COMMANDS! WATCH FOR MAN-BIRDS WITH PURPLE LIGHTS! FIND THEIR NEST!
THE PHANTOM COMMANDS - LOOK IN SKY FOR MAN BIRDS WITH PURPLE LIGHTS
THE DRUM-BEATS SURGE THROUGH THE JUNGLE!
THE PHANTOM COMMANDS - FIND THEIR NEST
12-18
TRIBE AFTER TRIBE PASSES ON THE MESSAGE!
MY JUNGLE PEOPLE WILL NOT FAIL ME.


THE PHANTOM COMMANDS-LOOK IN SKY FOR MAN BIRDS- WITH PURPLE LIGHTS- FIND THEIR NEST —
FOR DAYS, THE SIGNAL DRUM-BEATS ROLL THROUGH THE JUNGLE, PASSED ON FROM TRIBE TO TRIBE!
IN EVERY VILLAGE, LOOK-OUTS ARE POSTED!
12-19
FOR WEEKS, THE WATCH IS CONTINUED, WITHOUT SUCCESS.
THEN ONE NIGHT, A LONE NATIVE PADDLING IN A DUGOUT CANOE, SEES A PLANE FLYING OUT TO SEA!
Continued—

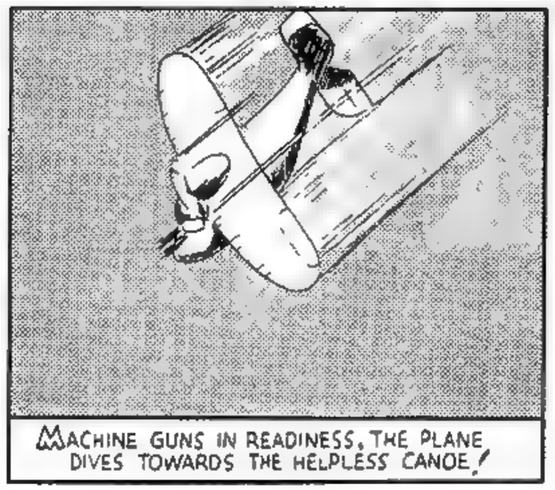

A NATIVE PADDLER HAS SPOTTED THE HIDE-OUT OF THE SKY BAND.
MAN-BIRDS WITH PURPLE LIGHTS! THEY NEST ON THE ISLE OF HERONS, GREAT GLIGOU!
YOU HAVE DONE WELL. OUR TRIBE WILL GAIN THE GOOD-WILL OF THE PHANTOM BY THIS ACT!
ROLL THE SIGNAL DRUMS. THE WORD SHALL BE PASSED THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO THE VILLAGE OF THE BANDAR -- TO THE PHANTOM!
GLIGOU REPORTS
MAN-BIRDS WITH PURPLE LIGHTS
NEST ON ISLE OF HERONS
FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, THE DRUM BEATS SURGE THROUGH THE JUNGLE!
The MESSAGE IS RECEIVED IN THE VILLAGE OF THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE!
GOOD! I KNEW MY JUNGLE PEOPLE WOULDN'T FAIL ME. SIGNAL GLIGOU TO HAVE WAR CANOE AND PADDLERS READY FOR ME!
12 21

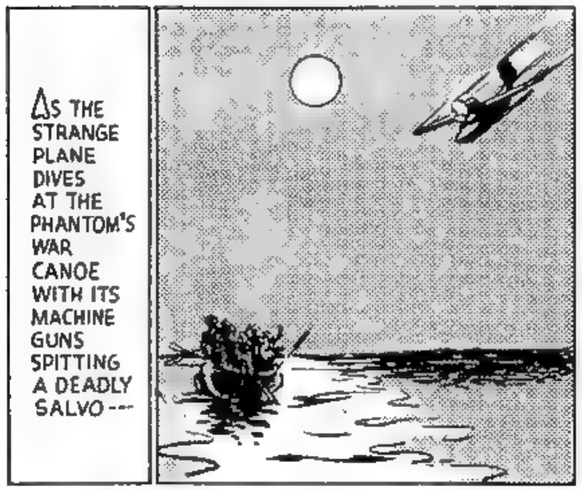
GOOD WORK, GLIGOU. YOU SHALL BE REWARDED.
THE WAR CANOE AND PADDLERS AWAIT YOU, AS YOU ORDERED, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS.
I ASK NO REWARD, OH, ANCIENT ONE. ONLY YOUR GOOD WILL AND PROTECTION FROM ALL EVIL MEN AND EVIL SPIRITS!
YOU SHALL ALWAYS HAVE THAT, MY SON.
I KEEP FORGETTING I'M SUPPOSED TO BE FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OLD, DEVIL! GLIGOU'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY GRANDPA. THE ONLY EVIL SPIRITS HE HAS TO FEAR ARE GIN AND WHISKEY.
12 22
THE WAR CANOES GET UNDER WAY, MANNED BY GLIGOU'S FAMOUS PADDLERS, HEADED FOR THE MYSTERIOUS ISLE OF HERONS!


A PLANE OVERHEAD! APPROACHING US! CAN IT BE----!
AS THE PHANTOM'S WAR CANOE HEADS FOR THE ISLE OF HERONS, THE HIDE-OUT OF THE SKY BAND!

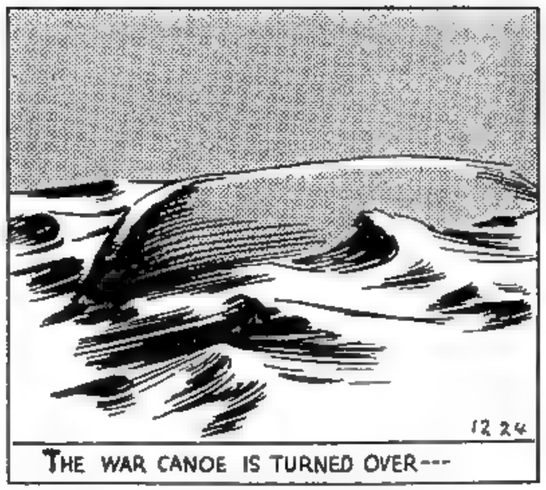
A WAR CANOE DOWN THERE, FILLED WITH NATIVES. THE IGNORANT FOOLS ARE HEADED FOR THE ISLE!
NONSENSE. HOW CAN THEY KNOW ABOUT THE ISLE? THEY'RE PROBABLY HEADED FOR THE FISHING GROUNDS.

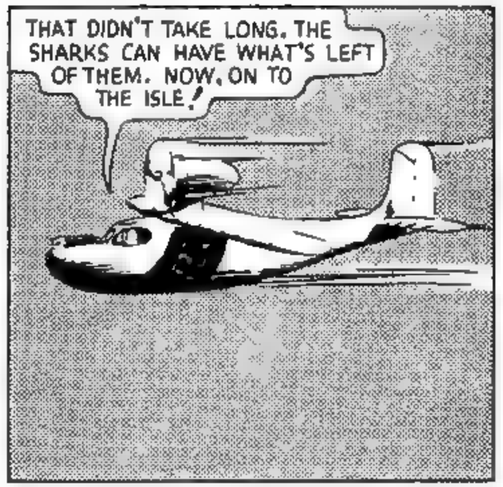
I'M IN COMMAND HERE. WE CAN TAKE NO CHANCE OF ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY. THE CANOE MUST BE SUNK!
12 23

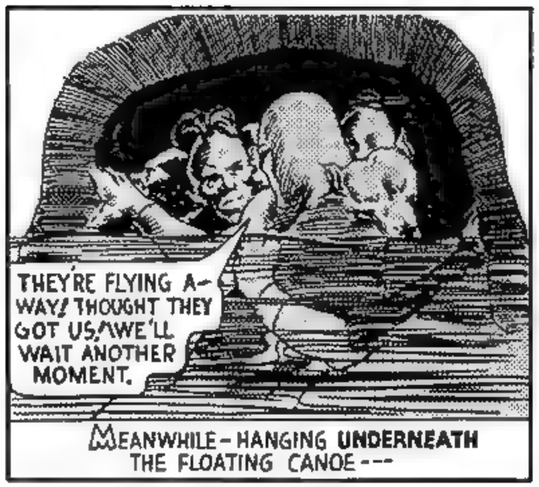

MACHINE GUNS IN READINESS, THE PLANE DIVES TOWARDS THE HELPLESS CANOE!

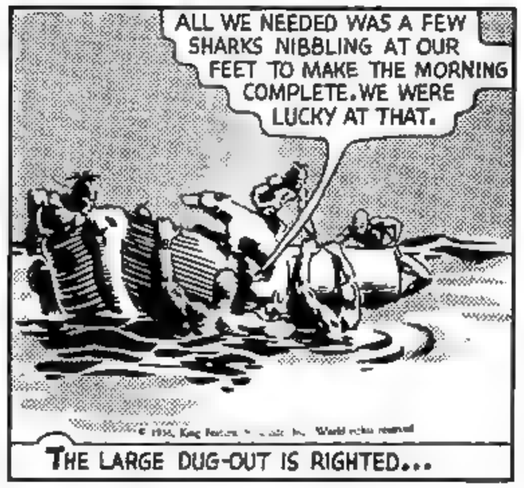

AS THE STRANGE PLANE DIVES AT THE PHANTOM'S WAR CANOE WITH ITS MACHINE GUNS SPITTING A DEADLY SALVO---

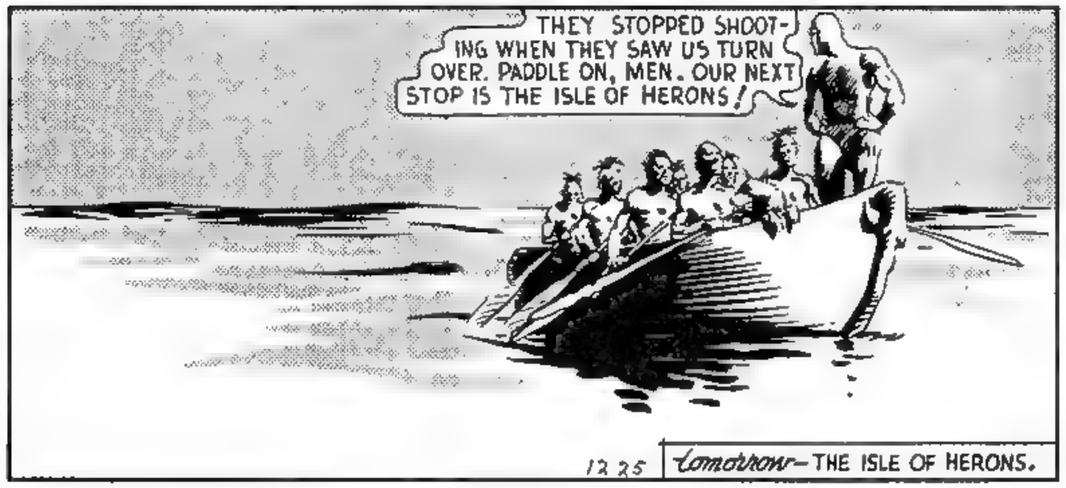
EVERYBODY OUT! INTO THE WATER!

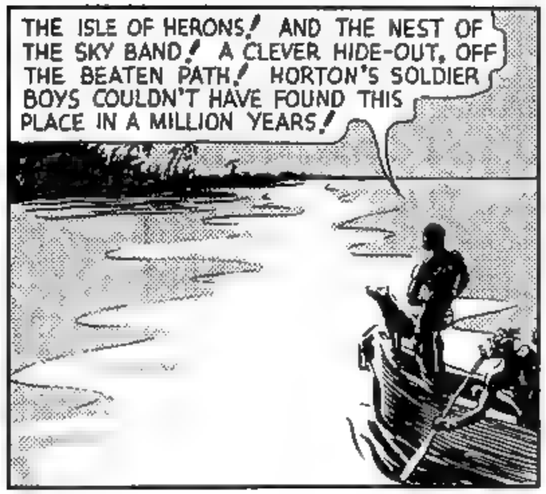

12 24
THE WAR CANOE IS TURNED OVER---


THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG. THE SHARKS CAN HAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM. NOW, ON TO THE ISLE!


THEY'RE FLYING A-WAY! THOUGHT THEY GOT US. WE'LL WAIT ANOTHER MOMENT.
MEANWHILE - HANGING UNDERNEATH THE FLOATING CANOE---


ALL WE NEEDED WAS A FEW SHARKS NIBBLING AT OUR FEET TO MAKE THE MORNING COMPLETE. WE WERE LUCKY AT THAT.
THE LARGE DUG-OUT IS RIGHTED...


THEY STOPPED SHOOTING WHEN THEY SAW US TURN OVER. PADDLE ON, MEN. OUR NEXT STOP IS THE ISLE OF HERONS!
12 25
Tomorrow—THE ISLE OF HERONS.

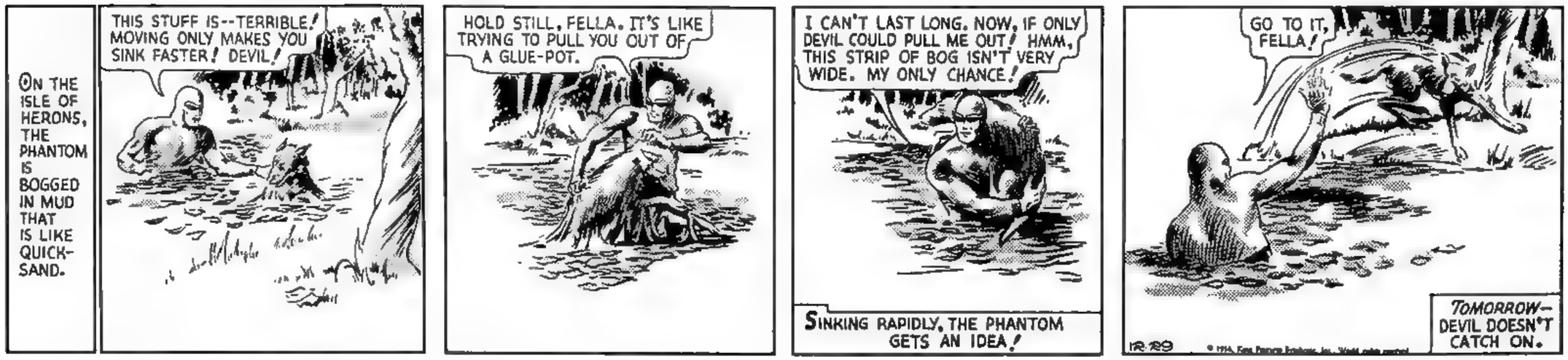

THE ISLE OF HERONS! AND THE NEST OF THE SKY BAND! A CLEVER HIDE-OUT, OFF THE BEATEN PATH! HORTON'S SOLDIER BOYS COULDN'T HAVE FOUND THIS PLACE IN A MILLION YEARS!

I'M GOING ON ALONE FROM HERE. I'LL HAVE MORE OF A CHANCE TO REACH THE ISLE UNSEEN. YOU ARE ALL BRAVE MEN. THE PHANTOM THANKS YOU.

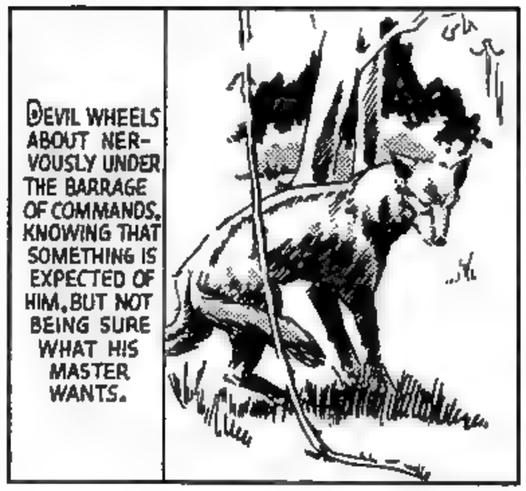
I'LL SWIM IN FROM HERE. YOU TAKE DEVIL BACK TO THE MAINLAND WITH YOU. THIS IS NO PLACE FOR HIM.

12 26
BUT DEVIL SNAPS HIS LEASH AND PLUNGES INTO THE WATER, AFTER HIS MASTER!

The PHANTOM REACHES THE ISLE OF HERONS, REPUTED HIDE-OUT OF THE MYSTERIOUS SKY BAND.
WELL, HERE WE ARE, DEVIL. IT'S JUST AS WELL THAT THERE'S NO RECEPTION COMMITTEE TO GREET US.
NOT A SIGN OF ANYONE. NOT EVEN A HERON, MUCH LESS THE SKY BAND. WHERE CAN THEY BE? THIS IS ONLY A TWO-BY-FOUR ISLAND.
HERE! WHAT'S THIS? LOOKS LIKE A PATH!
AND AS THE PHANTOM STEPS OUT ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE A PATH---
A BOG! MUD--LIKE QUICKSAND! AND HIDDEN BY LEAVES!
tomorrow- DEVIL IN THE AIR.

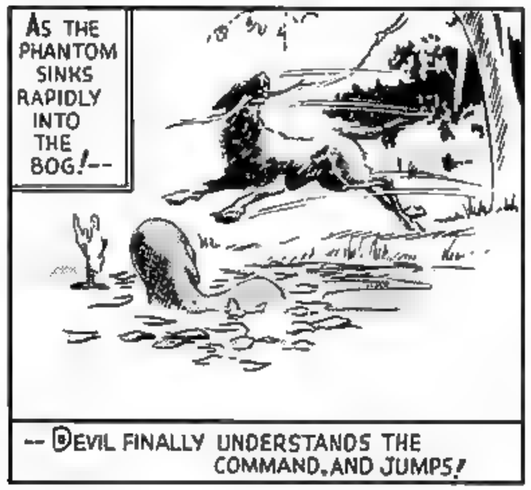

ON THE ISLE OF HERONS, THE PHANTOM IS BOGGED IN MUD THAT IS LIKE QUICK-SAND.
THIS STUFF IS--TERRIBLE! MOVING ONLY MAKES YOU SINK FASTER! DEVIL!
HOLD STILL, FELLA. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO PULL YOU OUT OF A GLUE-POT.
I CAN'T LAST LONG. NOW, IF ONLY DEVIL COULD PULL ME OUT! HMM, THIS STRIP OF BOG ISN'T VERY WIDE. MY ONLY CHANCE!
SINKING RAPIDLY, THE PHANTOM GETS AN IDEA!
GO TO IT, FELLA!
TOMORROW- DEVIL DOESN'T CATCH ON.

DEVIL, OLD BOY. TAKE THE VINE IN YOUR MOUTH. NO, FELLA. THE VINE! NOT THAT. THE VINE!
SINKING RAPIDLY INTO THE MIRE, THE PHANTOM CALLS TO DEVIL....


DEVIL WHEELS ABOUT NERVOUSLY UNDER THE BARRAGE OF COMMANDS, KNOWING THAT SOMETHING IS EXPECTED OF HIM, BUT NOT BEING SURE WHAT HIS MASTER WANTS.

GOOD BOY! THAT'S IT! GOOD FELLA. HOLD IT! HOLD IT! NOW COME TO ME. JUMP!
12-30

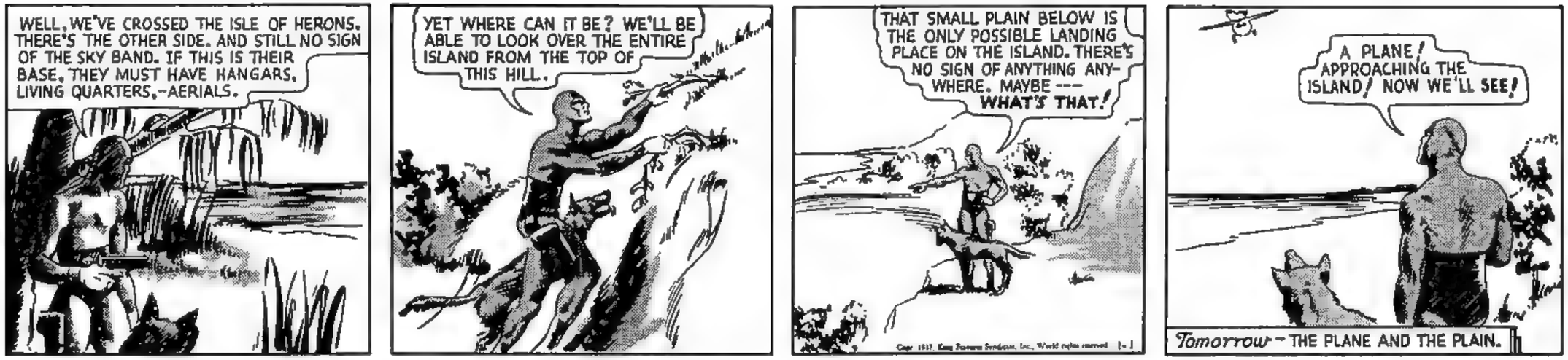
JUMP TO ME, DEVIL. JUMP! BRING IT TO ME!
DEVIL STARES UNCERTAINLY AT HIS MASTER, AS THE PHANTOM SLOWLY SINKS TO A HORRIBLE DOOM!


AS THE PHANTOM SINKS RAPIDLY INTO THE BOG!--
-- DEVIL FINALLY UNDERSTANDS THE COMMAND, AND JUMPS!

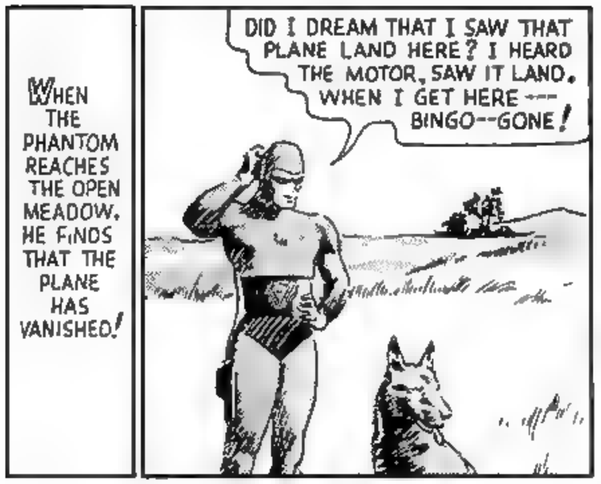
GOOD BOY, DEVIL. THE SUSPENSE WAS TERRIBLE. I THOUGHT YOU NEVER WOULD JUMP. HANG ON, FELLA. HERE WE GO!

YOU'LL GET A NICE BIG, JUICY BONE AT THE FIRST BUTCHER SHOP WE PASS, FELLA. PHEW! WHAT MUCK THAT WAS!
12-31

LOOKS LIKE A PATH. WELL-COVERED WITH LEAVES AND TWIGS. IT'S AN ARTIFICIAL BOG, DEVIL! MADE BY THE SKY BAND, TO HOLD OFF INTRUDERS! WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!


WELL, WE'VE CROSSED THE ISLE OF HERONS. THERE'S THE OTHER SIDE. AND STILL NO SIGN OF THE SKY BAND. IF THIS IS THEIR BASE, THEY MUST HAVE HANGARS, LIVING QUARTERS,-AERIALS.
YET WHERE CAN IT BE? WE'LL BE ABLE TO LOOK OVER THE ENTIRE ISLAND FROM THE TOP OF THIS HILL.
THAT SMALL PLAIN BELOW IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE LANDING PLACE ON THE ISLAND. THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYTHING ANY-WHERE. MAYBE --- WHAT'S THAT!
A PLANE! APPROACHING THE ISLAND! NOW WE'LL SEE!
Tomorrow - THE PLANE AND THE PLAIN.

IT'S LOWERING TO THE PLAIN, ALL RIGHT! WE'LL BE THERE WHEN IT LANDS!
THE PHANTOM WATCHES THE AIRPLANE LOWER TO THE ISLE OF HERONS!
WE'LL SOON LEARN THE MYSTERY OF THIS ISLAND. YOU CAN HEAR THE DRONE OF THE MOTOR, DEVIL.
The PHANTOM RACES DOWN THE WOODED SLOPE OF THE HILL---
THERE, THE MOTOR WAS JUST CUT OFF. IT'S COME TO A STOP!
--THROUGH A NARROW INTERVENING STRIP OF WOODS---
WHY--WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PLANE? IT'S--GONE! BUT I HEARD IT LAND HERE!
--AND REACHING THE OPEN MEADOW, FINDS IT BARREN AND EMPTY!


WHEN THE PHANTOM REACHES THE OPEN MEADOW, HE FINDS THAT THE PLANE HAS VANISHED!
DID I DREAM THAT I SAW THAT PLANE LAND HERE? I HEARD THE MOTOR, SAW IT LAND. WHEN I GET HERE --- BINGO--GONE!

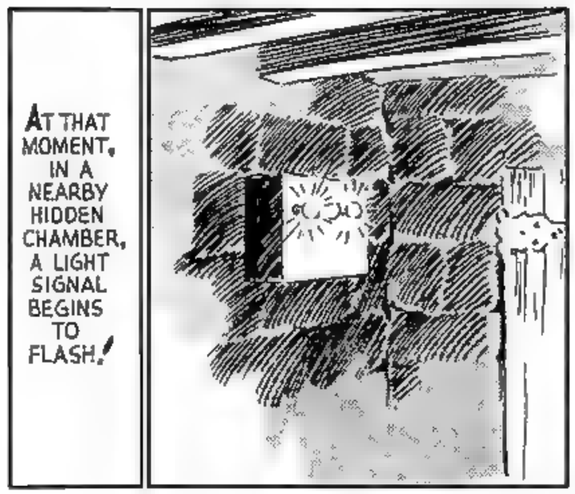
IF IT HAD TAKEN OFF AGAIN, I'D HAVE SEEN IT IN THE AIR AND HEARD IT! COULD MY NATIVES HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT THIS ISLAND BEING THE BASE OF THE SKY BAND?

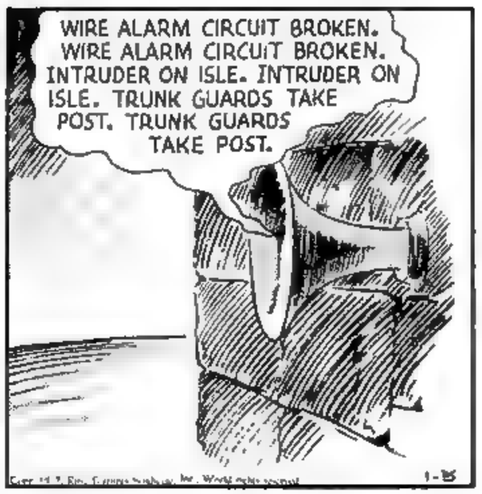
NO, BY JIMMINY! HERE ARE WHEEL MARKS! YET-- WHERE'S THE PLANE? DID THE EARTH SWALLOW IT?

AT THAT MOMENT WHILE NOSING THROUGH THE GRASS, DEVIL COMES UPON A THIN WIRE!

DEVIL, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE? WIRE! WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?

THIS ISLAND SEEMS TO BE DESERTED AND UNINHABITED. YET, A PIECE OF WIRE. WHAT CAN IT MEAN?


AT THAT MOMENT, IN A NEARBY HIDDEN CHAMBER, A LIGHT SIGNAL BEGINS TO FLASH!


WIRE ALARM CIRCUIT BROKEN. WIRE ALARM CIRCUIT BROKEN. INTRUDER ON ISLE. INTRUDER ON ISLE. TRUNK GUARDS TAKE POST. TRUNK GUARDS TAKE POST.

WELL, DEVIL, WE'VE WALKED UP AND DOWN THIS ISLAND FOR HOURS. NOT A SIGN OF ANYTHING. YET, IF THIS IS THE AIRBASE OF THE SKY BAND, IT SHOULD BE FILLED WITH DOZENS OF PLANES--AND HUNDREDS OF MEN!

DON'T ASK ME WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PLANE, FELLA. MAYBE I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS. I GUESS THIS PLACE WAS A FALSE LEAD. WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK HOME AND START OVER AGAIN.

MEANWHILE, HORTON'S SOLDIER BOYS ARE SEARCHING FOR ME AND--WHAT'S THAT! A LIGHT!

I'M NOT SEEING THINGS THIS TIME! A FLASHING LIGHT! NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE!
1-6
tomorrow
THE LIGHT THAT FAILED.

The PHANTOM SEES A LIGHT FLASHING IN THE WOODS AND ADVANCES TOWARDS IT.

THE LIGHT'S GONE! DEVIL, I COULD HAVE SWORN THE LIGHT CAME FROM THIS TREE! ARE MY EYES GOING BACK ON ME?

--OR AM I GOING SLIGHTLY DAFFY? VANISHING PLANES, LIGHTS THAT DISAPPEAR! WE'RE STICKING AROUND HERE UNTIL WE FIND WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

PUT YOUR HANDS UP IN THE AIR--AND DON'T MOVE!
SUDDENLY, A RIFLE BARREL PROTRUDES FROM A KNOT-HOLE IN THE TREE TRUNK AND A VOICE IS HEARD!

GLADLY. IT'S A PLEASURE TO HEAR A VOICE AGAIN, BESIDES MY OWN. PLEASE DON'T DO ANY VANISHING ACTS UNTIL I GET A CHANCE TO SEE YOU.
1-7
TOMORROW-OUT OF THE TREE

ONE MOVE AND I HAVE ORDERS TO SHOOT YOU DOWN.
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, PAL. ORDERS ARE ORDERS. TELL ME ONE THING. ARE YOU OF THE SKY BAND?

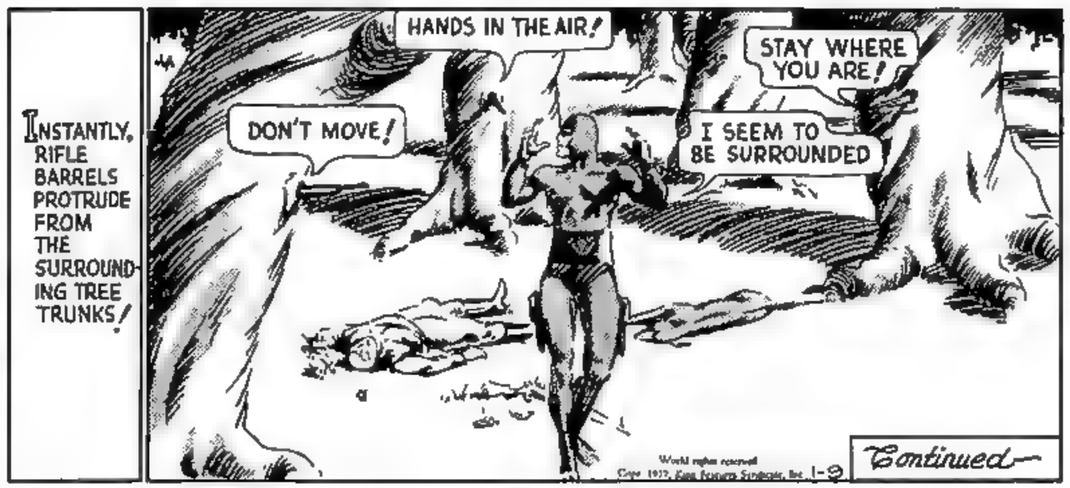
I AM
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW. THAT FLASHING LIGHT WAS A CLEVER STUNT. SORT OF A LURE, OR BAIT, TO BRING ME OVER THIS WAY, EH?

YOU SEEM TO KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS. REFRAIN FROM FURTHER TALK. YOU WILL ENTER THE ---

WHAT IN--- HOLD HIM OFF!
GR R-R-R--
AT THAT MOMENT, DEVIL SPRINGS AT THE MYSTERIOUS CAPTOR!

As DEVIL SPRINGS AT THE MYSTERIOUS MEMBER OF THE SKY BAND...
DON'T-- SHOOT-- -- OH!

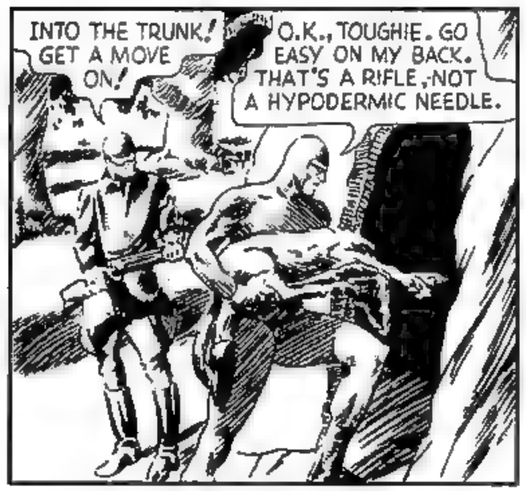
SHOOT DEVIL, WILL YOU?
WITH THE ROAR OF THE RIFLE IN HIS EARS, THE PHANTOM SWINGS FURIOUSLY AT HIS CAPTOR---


INSTANTLY, RIFLE BARRELS PROTRUDE FROM THE SURROUNDING TREE TRUNKS!
HANDS IN THE AIR!
DON'T MOVE!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
I SEEM TO BE SURROUNDED
Continued

DEVIL IS WOUNDED BY A SKY BAND BULLET AS THE PHANTOM'S CAPTORS STEP OUT OF THEIR TREE TRUNK HIDING-PLACES!
DEVIL, OLD FELLA, ARE YOU HURT? JUST LIE STILL, BOY. NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
LEAVE THE ANIMAL AND ENTER THAT TREE TRUNK!

DO AS YOU'RE ORDERED OR I'LL DROP YOU ALONGSIDE THE ANIMAL--AND I'LL SHOOT STRAIGHTER THIS TIME!
BLAZE AWAY, TOUGHIE! I WON'T LEAVE DEVIL LIKE THIS. HE'LL BLEED TO DEATH!

SO THAT IS THE PHANTOM, SALA? HE SEEMS RATHER---UNUSUAL. HAVE HIM BROUGHT HERE TO ME.
AS YOU SAY. BUT AS LONG AS HE HAS TO BE SHOT, WHY NOT LET THEM DO IT? WHY PROLONG THE AGONY?
MEANWHILE, THE SCENE IS BEING OBSERVED FROM AN UNDERGROUND CHAMBER, THROUGH A PERISCOPE!

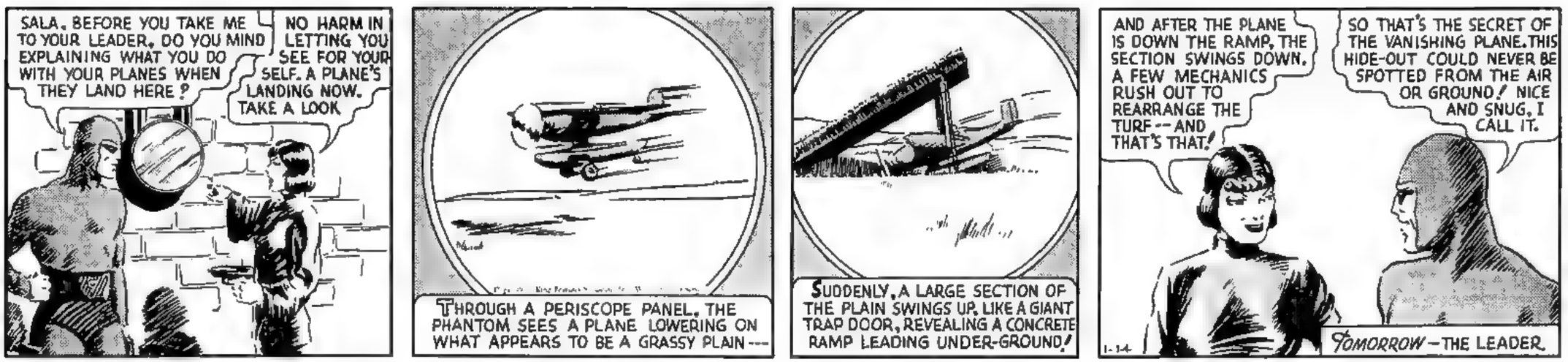

INTO THE TRUNK! GET A MOVE ON!
O.K., TOUGHIE. GO EASY ON MY BACK. THAT'S A RIFLE, NOT A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE.

HMM--HOLLOW TREE TRUNK LEADING TO UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE-WAY. CLEVER.

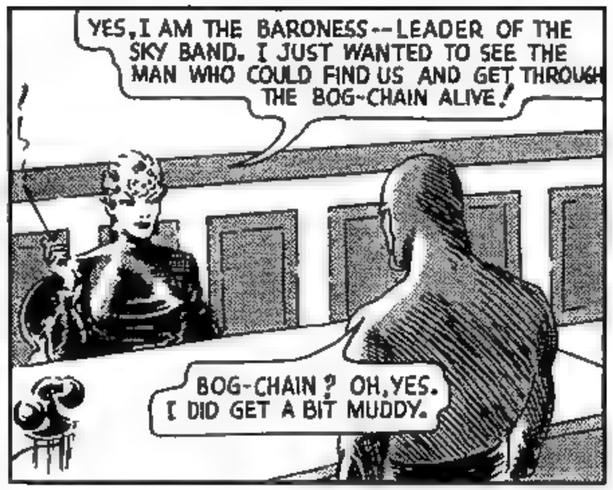
WE SHALL ATTEND TO THE ANIMAL. YOU WILL PROCEED AHEAD.
THANKS. DO A GOOD JOB ON DEVIL AND I'LL REMEMBER YOU IN MY WILL.

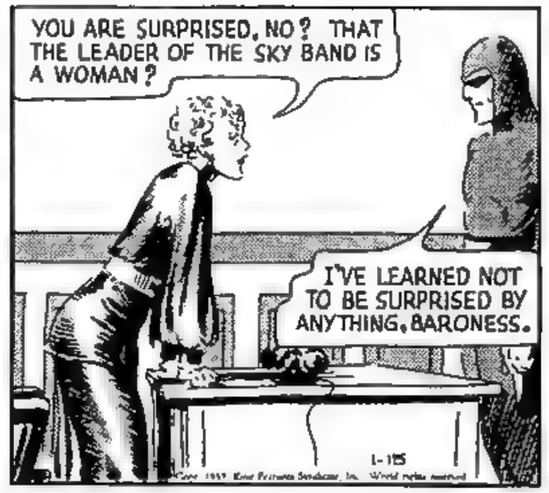
SO YOU FOUND YOUR WAY HERE, AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!
SALA!

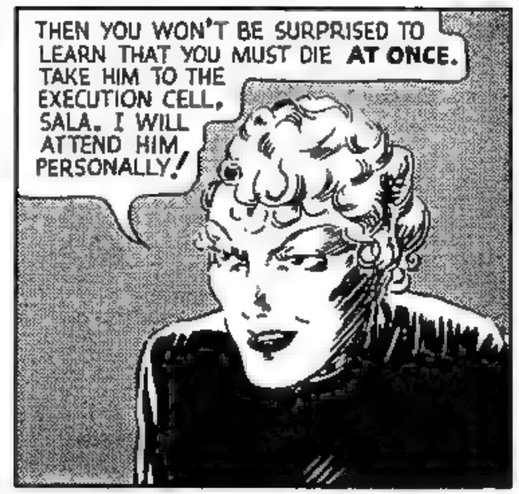
I LAUGHED WHEN I HEARD THAT THE MILITARY BOYS WERE HOLDING YOU FOR HELPING ME ESCAPE!
I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED YOURSELF. LAUGHTER KEEPS THE WRINKLES OUT OF A GIRL'S FACE.
I NEVER COULD FIGURE YOU OUT. DOESN'T ANYTHING FRIGHTEN YOU? I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO YOUR DEATH.
I SUSPECTED THAT WAS THE GENERAL IDEA.
WHAT'S THIS? THE KISS OF DEATH?
1-13
NO, JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT MY HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
YOUR PISTOL SEEMS TO BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, TOO.
tomorrow--SECRET OF THE RAMP

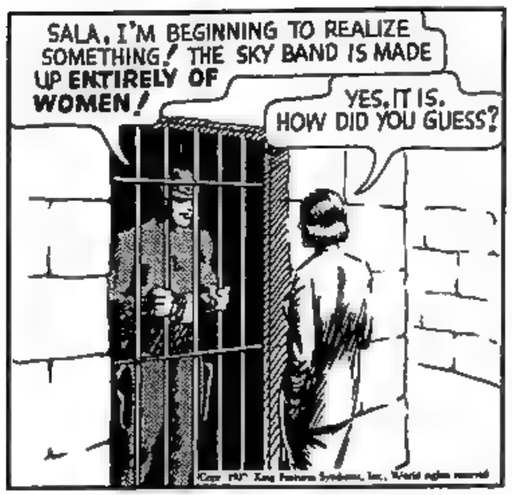

SALA, BEFORE YOU TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER, DO YOU MIND EXPLAINING WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR PLANES WHEN THEY LAND HERE?
NO HARM IN LETTING YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF. A PLANE'S LANDING NOW. TAKE A LOOK
THROUGH A PERISCOPE PANEL, THE PHANTOM SEES A PLANE LOWERING ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GRASSY PLAIN---
SUDDENLY, A LARGE SECTION OF THE PLAIN SWINGS UP, LIKE A GIANT TRAP DOOR, REVEALING A CONCRETE RAMP LEADING UNDER-GROUND!
AND AFTER THE PLANE IS DOWN THE RAMP, THE SECTION SWINGS DOWN. A FEW MECHANICS RUSH OUT TO REARRANGE THE TURF--AND THAT'S THAT!
SO THAT'S THE SECRET OF THE VANISHING PLANE. THIS HIDE-OUT COULD NEVER BE SPOTTED FROM THE AIR OR GROUND! NICE AND SNUG, I CALL IT.
1-14
TOMORROW—THE LEADER

SO THIS IS THE OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE SKY BAND! WHAT SORT OF A GENT IS HE?
YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF.


YES, I AM THE BARONESS--LEADER OF THE SKY BAND. I JUST WANTED TO SEE THE MAN WHO COULD FIND US AND GET THROUGH THE BOG-CHAIN ALIVE!
BOG-CHAIN? OH, YES. I DID GET A BIT MUDDY.


YOU ARE SURPRISED, NO? THAT THE LEADER OF THE SKY BAND IS A WOMAN?
I'VE LEARNED NOT TO BE SURPRISED BY ANYTHING, BARONESS.
1-15


THEN YOU WON'T BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT YOU MUST DIE AT ONCE. TAKE HIM TO THE EXECUTION CELL, SALA. I WILL ATTEND HIM PERSONALLY!


SALA, I'M BEGINNING TO REALIZE SOMETHING! THE SKY BAND IS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF WOMEN!
YES, IT IS. HOW DID YOU GUESS?

WHEN THEY CAPTURED ME, THEIR OUTFITS DISGUISED THEM, BUT THEY COULDN'T DISGUISE THEIR VOICES.
YES--THE--THE BARONESS--IS--COMING. SOMEHOW--I WISH I COULD HELP YOU.

BUT I--CAN'T. I'M THANKFUL FOR ONE THING. SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN SLOW TORTURE. ONE BULLET IS ALL. HERE--SHE COMES. GOODBYE.
1-16

The BARONESS APPROACHES THE EXECUTION CELL, HER EYES COLD AND DEADLY!
Continued

LEAVE, SALA. I WISH TO SPEAK WITH THIS MAN FOR A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE I KILL HIM.
Y-YES, BARONESS.

YOU'VE GOT REAL NERVE, COMING IN HERE ALONE, BARONESS.
I FEAR NO MAN. BESIDES, MY GUN HAS A HAIR-TRIGGER AND IS VERY MUCH LOADED!

BEFORE YOU DIE, YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT WE ARE PLANNING ANOTHER AIR BASE LIKE THIS ON YOUR OWN ISLAND OF LUNTOK. YOU MEN ARE NO MATCH FOR US. WE OUTWIT YOU EVERY TIME!

YOU AMAZE ME! YOU'RE AS COOL AS A CUCUMBER. AND YET, WITHIN A MOMENT, YOU PLAN TO KILL ME IN COLD-BLOOD!
WHY SHOULD I BE NERVOUS? IT'S YOUR LIFE, NOT MINE!

The PHANTOM FACES DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE BARONESS, THE COLD, INHUMAN LEADER OF THE SKY BAND!
I'M AMAZED! A BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT WOMAN LIKE YOURSELF, THE HEAD OF THE SKY BAND.
I WARN YOU. FLATTERY WILL NOT SAVE YOU! I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST YOU PERSONALLY.

BUT YOU MUST DIE, AS ALL DO, WHO BLUNDER UPON OUR SECRET HIDING-PLACE. WHAT IS MORE, I REGARD YOU AS THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ON EARTH-- FOR OUR CAUSE!

I WOULD NOT BE FOOL ENOUGH TO TRY TO FLATTER A WOMAN LIKE YOU. BUT A FACT IS A FACT. YOU'RE THE LOVELIEST WOMAN I'VE EVER SEEN.
AH-HA-- YOU THINK FAST, MR. PHANTOM.
1-19

BUT THIS TROPICAL SUN IS JUST RUINING MY SKIN AND THE DAMP SEA AIR IS MAKING A MESS OF MY HAIR. I REALLY HAVE NT HAD A PERMANENT OR A FACIAL IN---YEARS.

IF YOU WERE A MAN, I'D BE AT YOUR THROAT, REGARDLESS OF THAT GUN. AS IT IS, YOU'RE A LOVELY WOMAN WHOM I COULDN'T HARM IF I HAD THE CHANCE.
REALLY?

I WISH I'D MET YOU UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU THINK LIKE I DO. I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IN ACTION. SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE **EMPRESS OF THE AIR!**
YOU AREN'T A MIND-READER, BY ANY CHANCE?

I'VE DECIDED TO LET YOU LIVE-- TEMPORARILY. YOU MAY TURN OUT TO BE--VALUABLE TO ME. THEN AGAIN, I MAY DECIDE TO EXECUTE YOU. I'LL THINK IT OVER.

PHEW-- PLAYING ROMEO TO A MAD TIGRESS! BUT I HAD TO TALK MYSELF OUT OF THAT! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY!
AND AFTER THE BARONESS LEAVES THE CELL--

YOU--ARE GOING TO LET HIM LIVE?
I DON'T KNOW, SALA. OF COURSE, I'VE NEVER BELIEVED IN THE LEGEND OF THE PHANTOM--THE IMMORTAL PART-- BUT HE IS A MOST UNUSUAL MAN.

I'VE NEVER MET A MAN LIKE THAT BEFORE. HE WAS COOL UNDER MY GUN. HE DIDN'T TRY TO PLEAD FOR HIS LIFE. HE ACTED AS IF HE WERE AT AN AFTERNOON TEA.

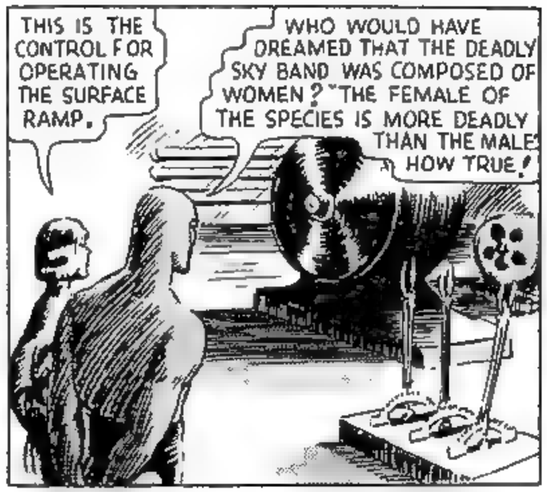
IN THE YEARS THAT I'VE SPENT BUILDING UP THE SKY BAND, I'VE FORGOTTEN I'M A **WOMAN.** THIS MAN, THIS PHANTOM, IS NOT LIKE OTHER MEN.
YES-- HE IS DIFFERENT.

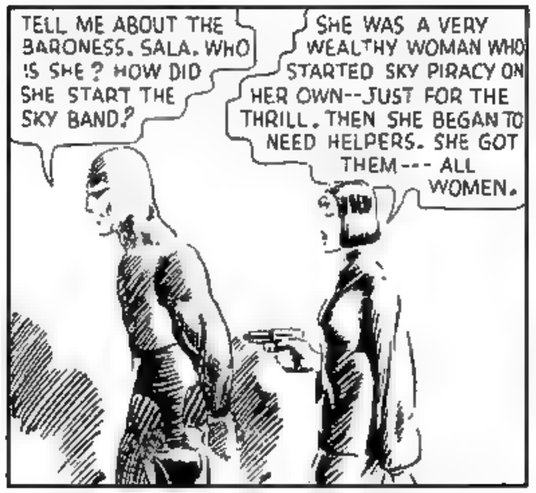
YES---HE INTERESTS ME---GREATLY.
TOMORROW— INSPECTION TOUR

THE BARONESS THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO LOOK AROUND.
I SEE. AND THESE BRACELETS? I SUPPOSE THE BARONESS THINKS I'VE GOT STICKY FINGERS, EH!

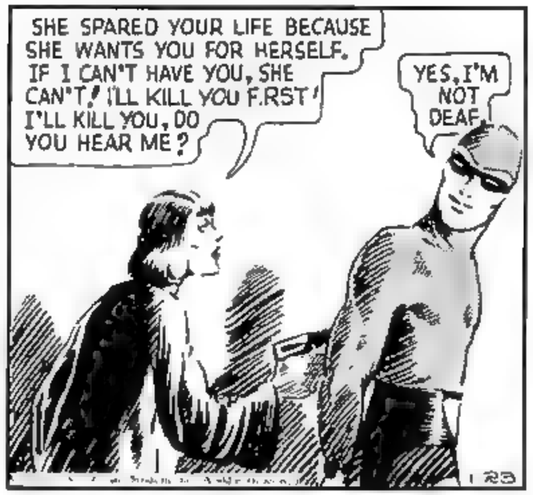
THESE ARE OUR UNDERGROUND HANGARS. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE MECHANICS, AS WELL AS THE PILOTS, ARE ALL WOMEN.

HERE WE GET REPORTS ON MOVEMENTS OF PLANES FROM OUR SECRET OFFICES IN EVERY MAJOR SEA-COAST CITY IN THE ORIENT.


THIS IS THE CONTROL FOR OPERATING THE SURFACE RAMP.
WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT THE DEADLY SKY BAND WAS COMPOSED OF WOMEN? "THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES IS MORE DEADLY THAN THE MALE."
HOW TRUE!


TELL ME ABOUT THE BARONESS, SALA. WHO IS SHE? HOW DID SHE START THE SKY BAND?
SHE WAS A VERY WEALTHY WOMAN WHO STARTED SKY PIRACY ON HER OWN--JUST FOR THE THRILL. THEN SHE BEGAN TO NEED HELPERS. SHE GOT THEM--- ALL WOMEN.

SOON IT TURNED INTO A BIG BUSINESS. SECRET OFFICES, LANDING-FIELDS, WHOLE-SALE BRIBERY---ARE YOU REALLY INTERESTED IN HER OR ARE YOU PLAYING A GAME?
NOT JEALOUS, SALA?


SHE SPARED YOUR LIFE BECAUSE SHE WANTS YOU FOR HERSELF. IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU, SHE CAN'T! I'LL KILL YOU FIRST! I'LL KILL YOU, DO YOU HEAR ME?
YES, I'M NOT DEAF.

YOU AND THE BARONESS ARE A PAIR OF NICE, SWEET GIRLS. IF SHE DOESN'T SHOOT ME, YOU WILL. I'M IN BETWEEN TWO FIRES

ADMIT IT! YOU'RE NOT IN LOVE WITH THE BARONESS! YOU'RE JUST PLAYING A GAME, WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO DENY THAT, DO YOU?

THIS IS THE TIGHTEST SPOT I'VE EVER BEEN IN. YOU'RE ALL WOMEN HERE--AND I COULDN'T SLUG A WOMAN IF I WANTED TO. NATURALLY, I WANT TO SAVE MY OWN LIFE.

AT LEAST, YOU'RE FRANK, AND YOU'RE PLAYING THE SAME GAME WITH ME, AREN'T YOU?
NOW WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THAT IF THE CHARMING LADY IN QUESTION WAS AIMING A PISTOL AT YOUR RIBS?

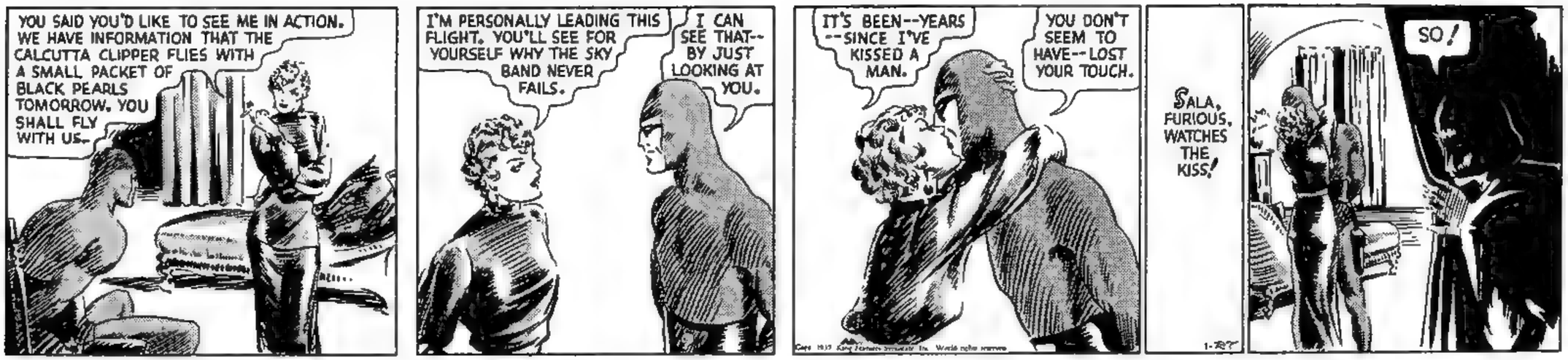
YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE OF A BRASS MONKEY! BUT I CAN'T HELP BEING A FOOL ABOUT YOU--EVEN IF IT IS FLIRTING WITH SUICIDE!
Tomorrow--THE BARONESS

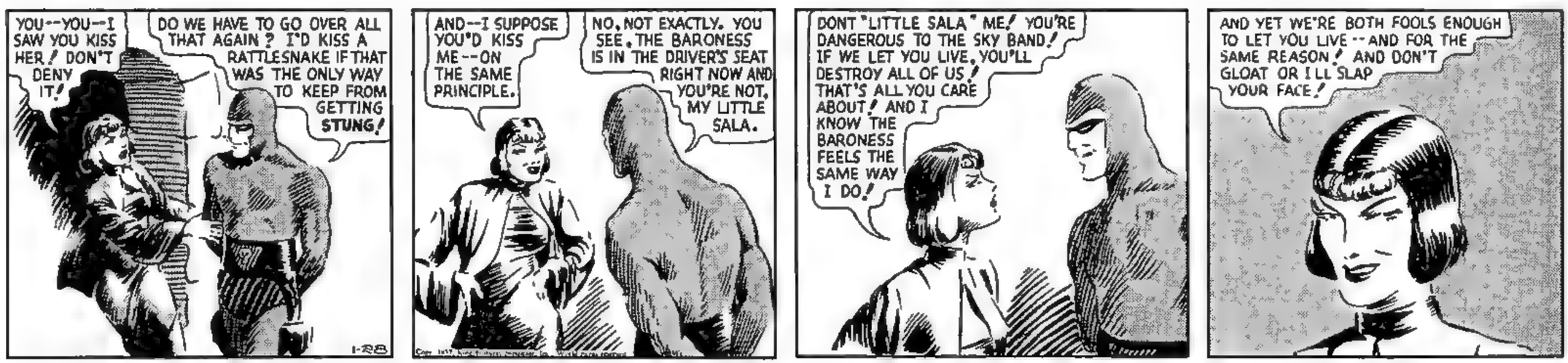
YES, I SENT FOR YOU. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
ON AN INSPECTION TOUR WITH SALA. YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT A NEAT HIDE-OUT HERE, BARONESS.

HMM--GLAD YOU APPROVE! WITH SALA, EH? SHE'S RATHER A VULGAR, IMPULSIVE CREATURE, ALTHOUGH SHE IS MY MOST DARING PILOT. I SUPPOSE MEN FIND HER ATTRACTIVE!

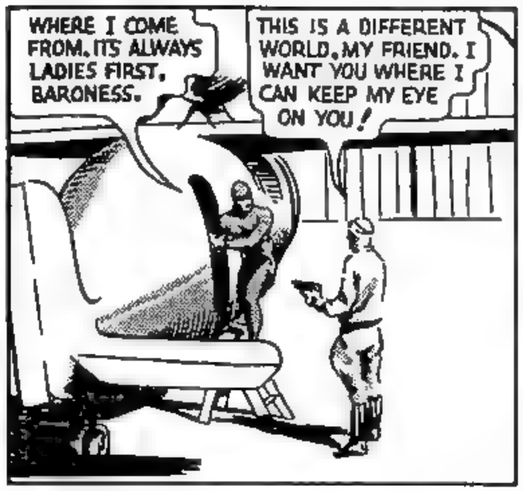
DO YOU?
I DARESAY, SHE'S ATTRACTIVE. I REALLY HADN'T NOTICED HER.

I SEE. YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT IT'S JUST MY LITTLE WHIM THAT KEEPS YOU ALIVE. YOU WON'T FORGET THAT, WILL YOU?
NO, BARONESS, I HAVE AN EXCELLENT MEMORY.
Tomorrow—SALA SNOOPS

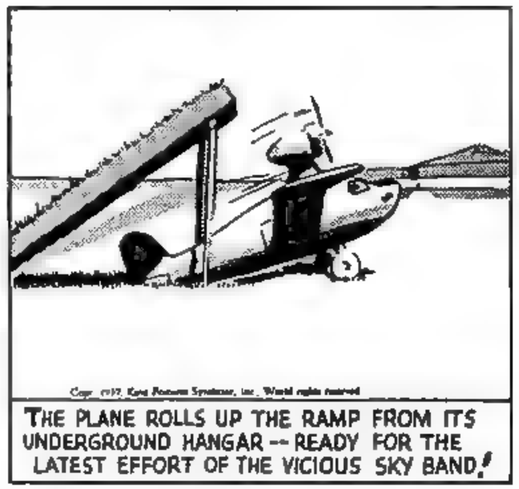

YOU SAID YOU'D LIKE TO SEE ME IN ACTION. WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER FLIES WITH A SMALL PACKET OF BLACK PEARLS TOMORROW. YOU SHALL FLY WITH US.
I'M PERSONALLY LEADING THIS FLIGHT. YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF WHY THE SKY BAND NEVER FAILS.
I CAN SEE THAT-- BY JUST LOOKING AT YOU.
IT'S BEEN--YEARS --SINCE I'VE KISSED A MAN.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE--LOST YOUR TOUCH.
SALA, FURIOUS, WATCHES THE KISS!
SO!


YOU--YOU--I SAW YOU KISS HER! DON'T DENY IT!
DO WE HAVE TO GO OVER ALL THAT AGAIN? I'D KISS A RATTLESNAKE IF THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP FROM GETTING STUNG!
AND--I SUPPOSE YOU'D KISS ME--ON THE SAME PRINCIPLE.
NO, NOT EXACTLY. YOU SEE, THE BARONESS IS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT RIGHT NOW AND YOU'RE NOT, MY LITTLE SALA.
DONT "LITTLE SALA" ME! YOU'RE DANGEROUS TO THE SKY BAND! IF WE LET YOU LIVE, YOU'LL DESTROY ALL OF US! THAT'S ALL YOU CARE ABOUT! AND I KNOW THE BARONESS FEELS THE SAME WAY I DO!
AND YET WE'RE BOTH FOOLS ENOUGH TO LET YOU LIVE--AND FOR THE SAME REASON! AND DON'T GLOAT OR I'LL SLAP YOUR FACE!

OUR LATEST REPORTS SAY THAT THE CLIPPER LEAVES CALCUTTA AT NOON, FLIES COASTWISE TO BASSEIN AND THEN ACROSS THE MAINLAND TO RANGOON.
GOOD! THEN WE STRIKE OVER OPEN WATER AT BASSEIN!


WHERE I COME FROM, ITS ALWAYS LADIES FIRST, BARONESS.
THIS IS A DIFFERENT WORLD, MY FRIEND. I WANT YOU WHERE I CAN KEEP MY EYE ON YOU!

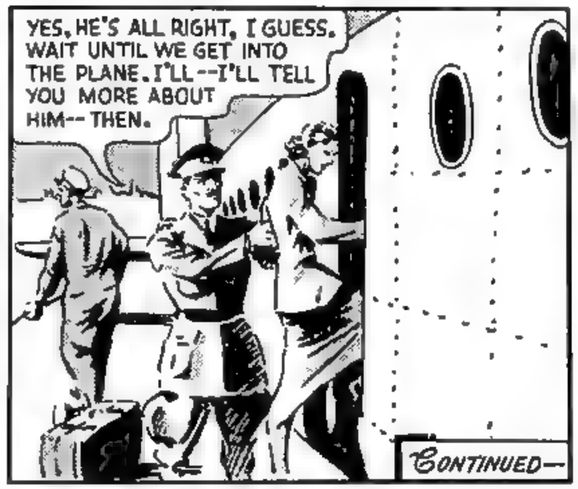
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T TRUST ME?
NO. YOUR NATURAL THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW ARE THOSE OF ESCAPE. PLEASE DON'T TRY. PLEASE DON'T. I'D BE FORCED TO SHOOT YOU.
1-29


THE PLANE ROLLS UP THE RAMP FROM ITS UNDERGROUND HANGAR -- READY FOR THE LATEST EFFORT OF THE VICIOUS SKY BAND!

AT THE AIRPORT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CALCUTTA.
DIANA PALMER! I GOT YOUR WIRE. WHAT IN THE WORLD BRINGS YOU HERE?
BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU, CAPTAIN MELVILLE HORTON.

I ONLY WISH THAT WAS THE REAL REASON. I ARRANGED PASSAGE ON THE CLIPPER, AS YOU REQUESTED, AND I'M GOING WITH YOU.
HOW NICE MEL. TELL ME -- TELL ME ABOUT HIM. WHERE IS HE?

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T MAKE THIS FLIGHT, DIANA. THE SKY BAND HAS BEEN GIVING US NIGHTMARES IN THESE PARTS.
MEL, YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION. I'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM AMERICA TO SEE HIM. HE'S -- HE'S ALLRIGHT, ISN'T HE?
1-30


YES, HE'S ALL RIGHT, I GUESS. WAIT UNTIL WE GET INTO THE PLANE. I'LL -- I'LL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT HIM -- THEN.
CONTINUED—

CAPTAIN HORTON TELLS DIANA THAT THE PHANTOM IS EITHER A MEMBER OR LEADER OF THE SKY BAND.
I HATED TO TELL YOU THIS, DIANA, BECAUSE I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM, BUT---
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE'S ONE OF THOSE SKY PIRATES? DON'T BE SILLY, MEL.

BUT HE HELPED SALA ESCAPE, WHO ADMITTED SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE BAND. THEN WHEN WE PUT HIM IN JAIL, HE BROKE OUT.
NATURALLY, HE'D BREAK OUT. YOU DON'T THINK YOU COULD KEEP HIM BEHIND BARS!

I BELIEVE HE HELPED YOU AND HELPED US DESTROY THE SINGH PIRATES, JUST TO THROW US OFF THE SCENT. IN FACT, I TOLD HIM AS MUCH.
MEL, YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
2-1

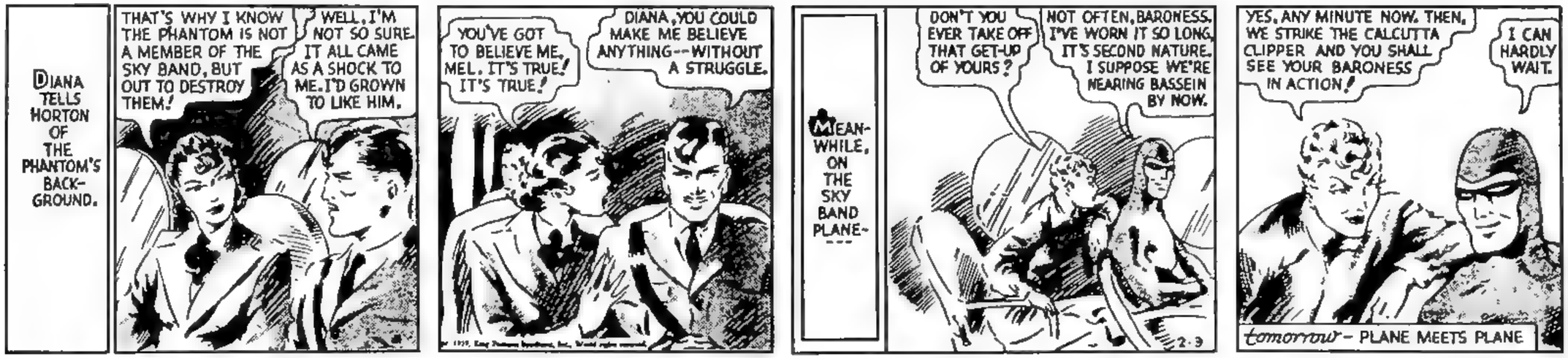
DON'T GET ANGRY, DIANA. I KNOW YOU'RE SLIGHTLY BIASED.
BIASED! THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY! MEL, I'VE JUST GOT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PHANTOM!
tomorrow—DIANA BREAKS HER WORD

YOU SEE, MEL, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE PHANTOM'S SECRET. HE TOLD ME WHEN HE--WHEN HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM.
I--I SEE. WELL, WHY IS HE MIXED UP IN ALL THIS SKY BAND BUSINESS?

YOU KNOW, THE NATIVES THINK HE'S IMMORTAL. FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, HIS DIRECT ANCESTOR SWORE AN OATH TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL FORMS OF PIRACY AND GREED!

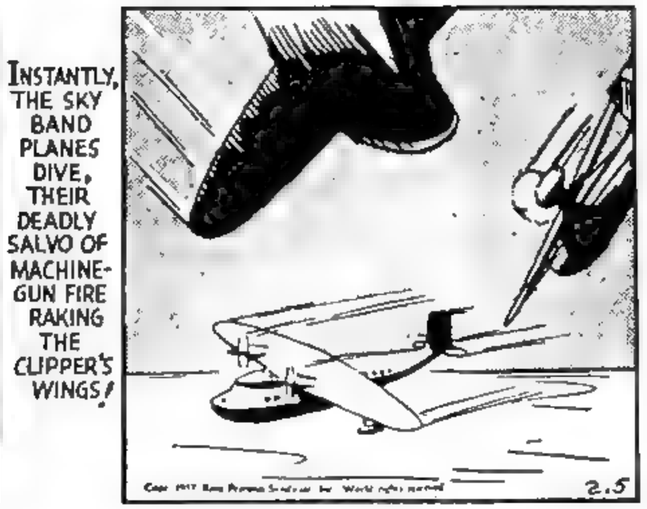
THAT MAN WAS THE FIRST PHANTOM. THE IRON-BOUND OATH WAS HANDED DOWN FROM FATHER TO SON. ABSOLUTE SECRECY WAS PART OF THE OATH. OUR PHANTOM IS THE PRESENT MEMBER OF THAT FAMILY.
22

I TOLD HIM THE OATH WAS SILLY. BUT IT'S SACRED TO HIM! FATHER TO SON, FATHER TO SON--DOWN THE LINE! THAT'S WHY THE NATIVES OF THE ORIENT THINK THE PHANTOM'S IMMORTAL!


DIANA TELLS HORTON OF THE PHANTOM'S BACK-GROUND.
THAT'S WHY I KNOW THE PHANTOM IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SKY BAND, BUT OUT TO DESTROY THEM!
WELL, I'M NOT SO SURE. IT ALL CAME AS A SHOCK TO ME. I'D GROWN TO LIKE HIM.
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME, MEL. IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!
DIANA, YOU COULD MAKE ME BELIEVE ANYTHING--WITHOUT A STRUGGLE.
MEAN-WHILE, ON THE SKY BAND PLANE-
DON'T YOU EVER TAKE OFF THAT GET-UP OF YOURS?
NOT OFTEN, BARONESS. I'VE WORN IT SO LONG, IT'S SECOND NATURE. I SUPPOSE WE'RE NEARING BASSEIN BY NOW.
YES, ANY MINUTE NOW. THEN, WE STRIKE THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER AND YOU SHALL SEE YOUR BARONESS IN ACTION!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT.
tomorrow- PLANE MEETS PLANE

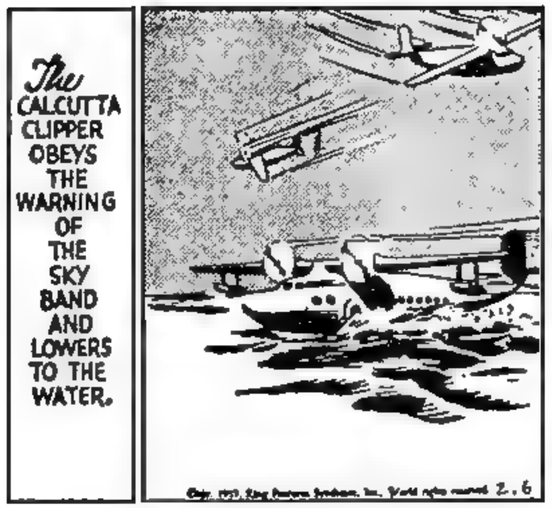
BARONESS, THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER HAS BEEN SIGHTED!
GOOD! FLASH THE RADIO WARNING!
I AM FOND OF YOU, BUT I WARN YOU. WATCH YOUR STEP! AS MUCH AS I LIKE YOU, I'LL HAVE NO HESITANCY IN SHOOTING YOU!
YES, I GOT THAT BARONESS. I'LL BE A GOOD BOY.
YEH, I SEE THOSE PLANES AHEAD. SKY BAND! WHAT DO THEY SAY?
THEY'RE SIGNALING --"LOWER AT ONCE OR WE'LL DROP YOU! THINK THEY MEAN IT? I'LL ASK CAPTAIN HORTON!
AND THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER GETS THE TERSE RADIO WARNING!
PURPLE LIGHTS! THAT'S THE SKY BAND ALL RIGHT! QUICK! GET WORD TO CALCUTTA! THEN GIVE THIS PLANE ALL SHE'S GOT! MAYBE WE CAN KEEP AWAY FROM THEM UNTIL HELP COMES!
tomorrow- OH, NO YOU DON'T!

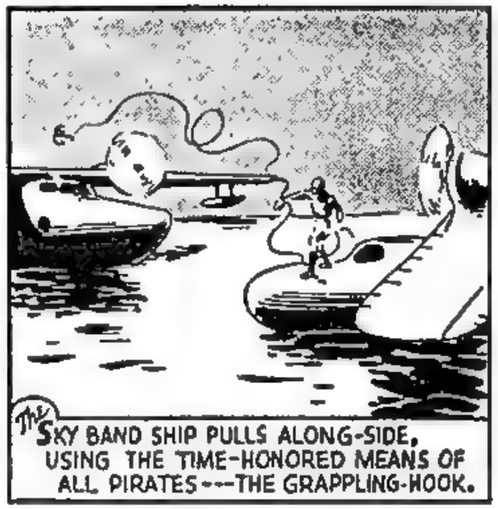
CALCUTTA. CALCUTTA -- THIS IS MORAN. MORAN. WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY SKY BAND. SKY BAND. NEAR BASSEIN. NEAR BASSEIN. SKY BAND. NEAR BASSEIN.
THE RADIO OPERATOR OF THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER FLASHES HIS REPORT---


INSTANTLY, THE SKY BAND PLANES DIVE, THEIR DEADLY SALVO OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE RAKING THE CLIPPER'S WINGS!
2.5

THEY'RE RADIOING ANOTHER WARNING! "LOWER--CEASE FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO USE RADIO. THIS IS LAST WARNING!"
HMM--THEIR SHIPS ARE TOO FAST--- AND WITH DIANA ON BOARD---

WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE AGAINST MACHINE-GUNS AND I GUESS THEY MEAN BUSINESS. WELL, DO AS THEY SAY. LOWER TO THE WATER.
TOMORROW--THE FIRST GLIMPSE--


The CALCUTTA CLIPPER OBEYS THE WARNING OF THE SKY BAND AND LOWERS TO THE WATER.
2.6


THE SKY BAND SHIP PULLS ALONG-SIDE, USING THE TIME-HONORED MEANS OF ALL PIRATES---THE GRAPPLING-HOOK.

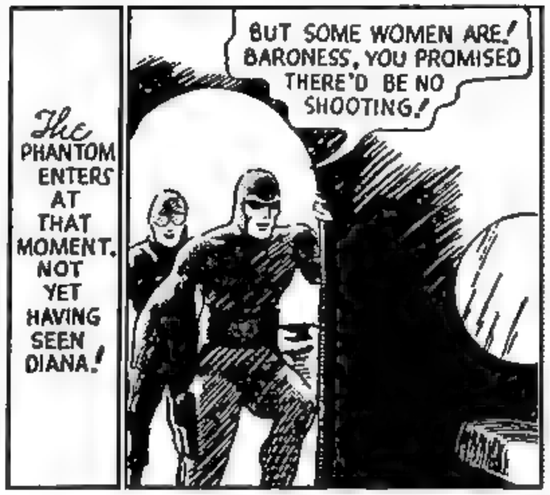
PLEASE, DON'T BE AFRAID, DIANA. THEY'RE AFTER LOOT, NOTHING MORE.
I'M--I'M NOT AFRAID.

THEN, PRESSING AGAINST A WINDOW, DIANA SUDDENLY SEES THE PHANTOM EMERGE FROM THE SKY BAND PLANE!
Continued

I AM CAPTAIN HORTON OF THE COLONIAL SERVICE. I'M A PASSENGER HERE. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE, CAPTAIN. WHERE'S THE STEWARD?

BLACK PEARLS? SOMEBODY MUSTA BEEN KIDDIN' YOU ALONG, MA'AM. NOTHIN' LIKE THAT THIS TRIP.
DON'T LIE! HAND THEM OVER. TWENTY-EIGHT MATCHED BLACK PEARLS, PACKED IN A WHITE VELVET BOX! I WARN YOU---
2-8

PUT DOWN YOUR GUN, GIRLIE. YOU CAN'T SCARE-- UGH--
MEN AREN'T VERY GOOD LIARS!


The PHANTOM ENTERS AT THAT MOMENT, NOT YET HAVING SEEN DIANA!
BUT SOME WOMEN ARE! BARONESS, YOU PROMISED THERE'D BE NO SHOOTING!

HORTON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I DON'T SUPPOSE I HAVE TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION. IT'S OBVIOUS. YOU'VE SHOWN UP IN YOUR TRUE COLORS--- A MEMBER OF THE SKY BAND!

IT'S NOT TRUE! IT'S NOT!
DIANA—
AND THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PHANTOM SEES DIANA!

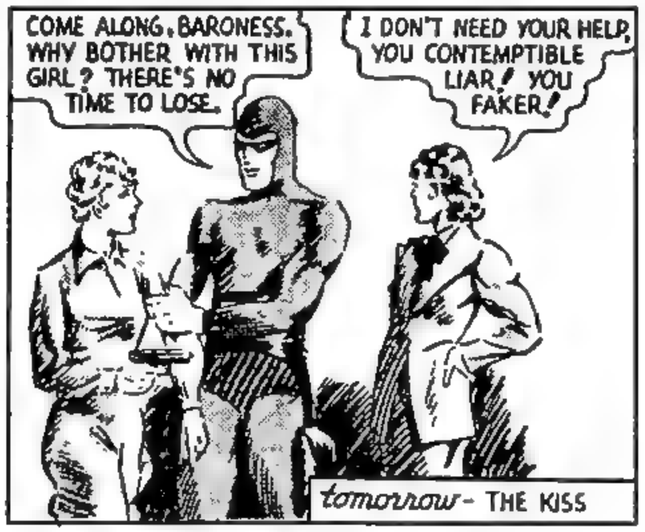
TO HAVE TO MEET YOU AGAIN THIS WAY! TELL ME YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THESE MURDERERS! TELL ME!
PARDON ME-- BUT-- I--I'M HAVING SOME TROUBLE IN-- PLACING YOU. YOU'RE DIANA --DIANA PALMER?
2-9

HIS VOICE IS SHAKING. HE'S EITHER FRIGHTENED, OR HE'S TRYING TO BLUFF. I'LL SOON FIND OUT!
MEANWHILE, THE BARONESS WATCHES WITH NARROWED EYES!

I WISH TO TALK TO THIS WOMAN!
OH, YOU DO? YOU SHOT DOWN THAT MAN IN COLD BLOOD! YOU--

YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY I DO THINGS, EH?
IF I HADN'T SEEN IT, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE A WOMAN COULD BE SO CRUEL, MEAN, COLD AND LOW!

MOLA, TECLA—WE'LL TAKE THIS PASTY-FACED MILK-SOP WITH US! THEN I'LL-- BAH-- WHY WASTE TIME TAKING HER? I'LL---


COME ALONG, BARONESS. WHY BOTHER WITH THIS GIRL? THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP, YOU CONTEMPTIBLE LIAR! YOU FAKER!
tomorrow - THE KISS

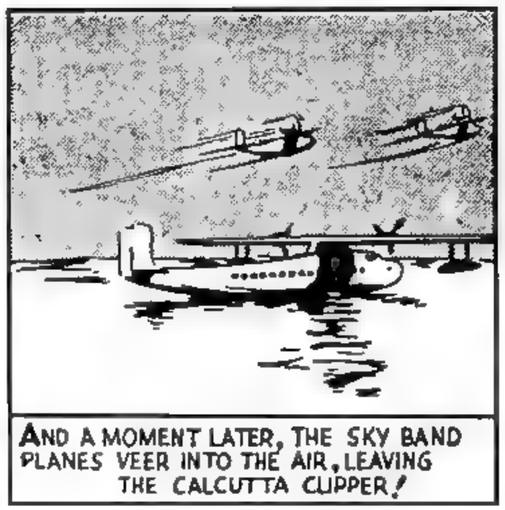
PERHAPS YOU LIKE THIS GIRL, EH? YOU WOULD HELP HER?
DON'T BE ABSURD. THAT RADIO MAN GOT OFF A WARNING, YOU KNOW. BESIDES, YOU CAME FOR PEARLS, DIDN'T YOU?

THE PEARLS ARE ALL HERE, BARONESS.
GOOD. KEEP THEM. I HAVE ONE LITTLE MATTER TO SETTLE. THEN, WE TAKE OFF. BE READY.

NOW YOU HAVE SEEN ME IN ACTION. YOU ARE PLEASED? YOU WOULD KISS ME, PERHAPS? NOW?
KISS YOU? WHY---I-

YOU KISS--- SO NICELY!

GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS. BE THANKFUL THAT I AM IN A CHARITABLE MOOD. WHEN A WOMAN IS IN LOVE, SHE DISLIKES SHOOTING MORE PEOPLE THAN IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!

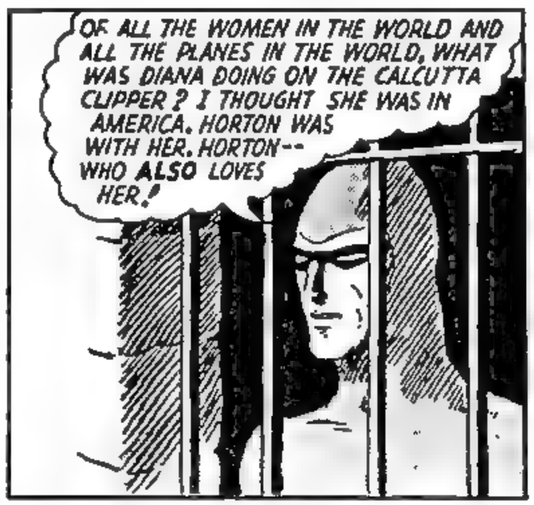

AND A MOMENT LATER, THE SKY BAND PLANES VEER INTO THE AIR, LEAVING THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER!

I CAME EIGHT THOUSAND MILES--TO--TO--FIND THIS.
I'M SORRY, DIANA. I--I KNOW IT'S TOUGH FOR YOU--TO FIND HIM ONE OF THE SKY BAND.

HE KISSED HER! SHE SAID SHE WAS IN LOVE! HE--HE KISSED HER---
2-12
tomorrow--THE PHANTOM BROODS

YOU DISPLEASED ME GREATLY--ATTEMPTING TO ORDER ME ABOUT. THAT GIRL--DID YOU KNOW HER?
YES--- SLIGHTLY

WELL, I PROMISED THAT YOU'D SEE ME IN ACTION---THESE PEARLS WERE WORTH THE TROUBLE. NOW YOU'LL RETURN TO YOUR CELL, UNTIL I SEND FOR YOU.


OF ALL THE WOMEN IN THE WORLD AND ALL THE PLANES IN THE WORLD, WHAT WAS DIANA DOING ON THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER? I THOUGHT SHE WAS IN AMERICA. HORTON WAS WITH HER. HORTON--WHO ALSO LOVES HER!

--AND JUST AS MY PLANS WERE ROUNDING OUT SO WELL! IF I HADN'T KISSED THE BARONESS, SHE'D MURDERED THE WHOLE CREW --- INCLUDING DIANA. CAN I EVER EXPLAIN TO DIANA--IF I EVER SEE HER AGAIN?
2-13
CONTINUED—

DIANA--I-I ALWAYS KNEW YOU LOVED THE PHANTOM. I'M-- I'M SORRY THIS HAD TO HAPPEN. I REALLY AM.
I--I GUESS I'M THE LITTLE GIRL WHO GOT LEFT IN THE RUSH.

DON'T JUDGE HIM TOO QUICKLY. PERHAPS HE STILL--LOVES YOU.
YOU'RE SWEET TO SAY THAT, MEL. IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH TO FIND HIM--ONE OF THE SKY BAND.

BUT HE KISSED THAT--THAT HORRIBLE WOMAN, RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME! WHY-- WHY DID HE HAVE TO BE SO--CRUEL?
PLEASE DON'T CRY, DIANA. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

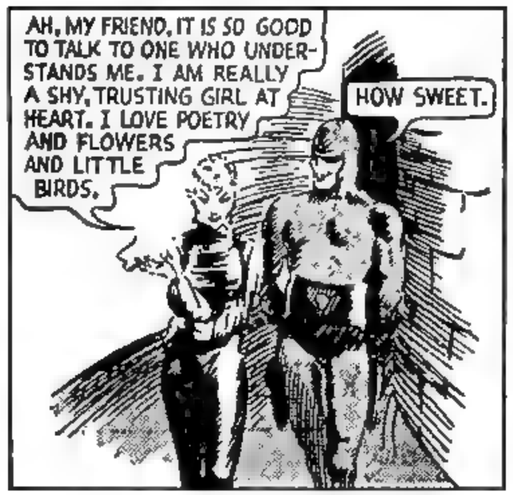
GO BACK TO AMERICA, I GUESS. I DON'T KNOW. I'M ALL-- MIXED UP.
DIANA, PLEASE STAY HERE IN CALCUTTA. PERHAPS IN TIME, YOU CAN FORGET HIM--AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'LL TRY TO DO A LITTLE PINCH-HITTING --IF YOU'LL LET ME.

AH, THESE BLACK PEARLS ARE BEAUTIFUL! WORTH A QUEEN'S RANSOM! IT WAS WORTH THE TROUBLE TO GET THEM.
SHALL I ARRANGE TO HAVE THEM TAKEN TO THE MAINLAND AND DISPOSED OF IN THE USUAL WAY?

N-NO--WE SHALL NOT SELL THESE PEARLS. I SHALL KEEP THEM, MYSELF. THEY ARE BLACK--AND BLACK SEEMS TO BE THE FAVORITE COLOR OF A CERTAIN FRIEND OF MINE.

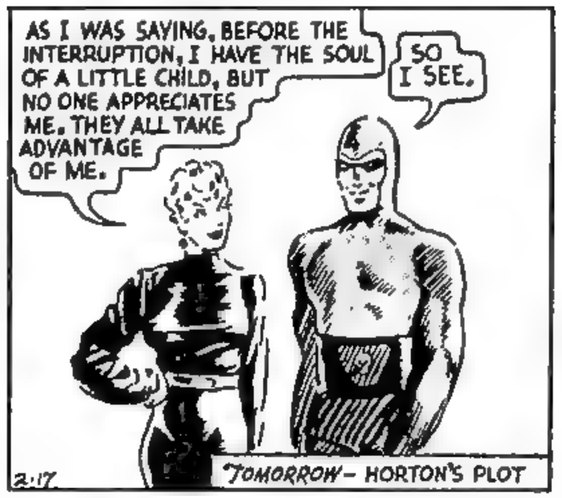
BUT, BARONESS, THAT IS AGAINST THE BAND RULES. EVERYTHING TAKEN IN RAIDS IS SOLD AND DIVIDED EQUALLY.
DON'T USE THAT TONE OF VOICE TO ME! I MAKE THE SKY BAND RULES. I BREAK THEM!

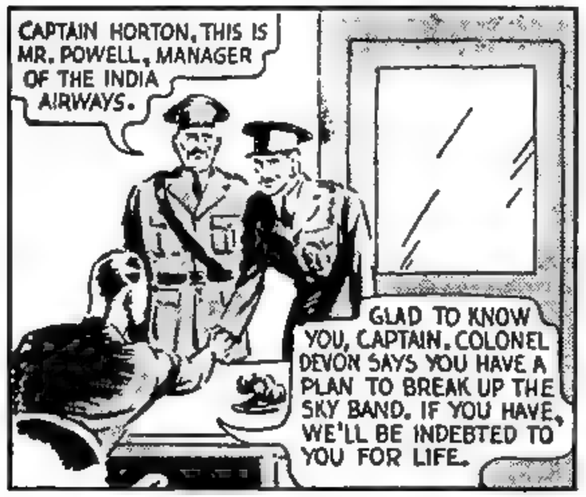
WHAT'S MORE, SALA, THERE'S A CERTAIN FRIEND OF MINE WHOM I'D ADVISE YOU TO AVOID SEEING. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
YES, YOU DO, BARONESS. QUITE CLEAR


AH, MY FRIEND, IT IS SO GOOD TO TALK TO ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS ME. I AM REALLY A SHY, TRUSTING GIRL AT HEART. I LOVE POETRY AND FLOWERS AND LITTLE BIRDS.
HOW SWEET.

MIRANA IS READY FOR PUNISHMENT, BARONESS.
OH, YES. I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN. I WANT TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF HER. GIVE ME THE WHIP!

AND THE NEXT ONE --- CAUGHT-- SMOKING IN THE HANGAR--WILL GET A DOUBLE DOSE! WELL! FAINTED SO SOON! NO BACKBONE!


AS I WAS SAYING, BEFORE THE INTERRUPTION, I HAVE THE SOUL OF A LITTLE CHILD, BUT NO ONE APPRECIATES ME. THEY ALL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME.
SO I SEE.
2-17
TOMORROW - HORTON'S PLOT


CAPTAIN HORTON, THIS IS MR. POWELL, MANAGER OF THE INDIA AIRWAYS.
GLAD TO KNOW YOU, CAPTAIN. COLONEL DEVON SAYS YOU HAVE A PLAN TO BREAK UP THE SKY BAND. IF YOU HAVE, WE'LL BE INDEBTED TO YOU FOR LIFE.

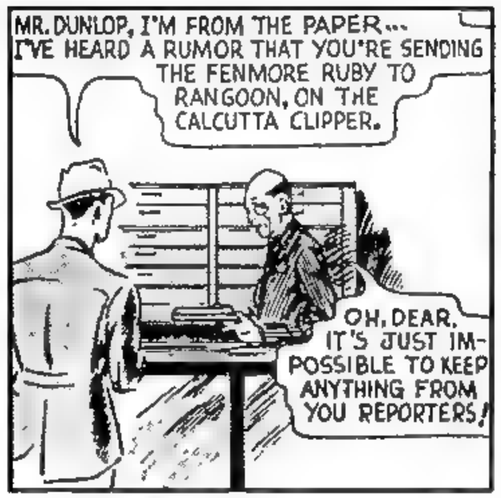
HERE'S THE IDEA. NEXT WEEK NEWSPAPERS WILL RUN THE STORY THAT THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER IS CARRYING THE FENMORE RUBY TO RANGOON-- WITH A RECORD INSURANCE PREMIUM TO PROTECT IT.
WHAT!

THE CLIPPER WON'T REALLY CARRY THE GEM. THAT'S THE NEWSPAPER STORY. INSTEAD, THE CLIPPER WILL PICK UP A SQUAD OF SOLDIERS, SECRETLY, OUT IN THE HARBOR. ALSO A MACHINE-GUN. MARK MY WORD! THE SKY BAND WILL ATTACK THE CLIPPER.
2-18

THEIR SPIES WON'T MISS THAT NEWS STORY.. AND WHEN THE BAND ATTACKS, THEY'LL FIND TROUBLE, REAL TROUBLE, INSTEAD OF A HELPLESS CREW AND PASSENGERS!
CAPTAIN, IT'S A MARVELOUS IDEA. WE'LL COOPERATE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT. WE HAVE TO ACT BEFORE THE SKY BAND DESTROYS US COMPLETELY!

YOU SEE, MR. POWELL, ALL WE NEED ARE A FEW SKY BAND PRISONERS. ONCE WE HAVE THEM, WE'LL FORCE THEM TO TELL US WHERE THEIR BASE IS!
TRUE. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO DESTROY ANTS. UNLESS YOU CAN REACH THE QUEEN AND HER NEST, THEY'LL MULITIPLY FASTER THAN YOU CAN KILL THEM.
WHILE HORTON EXPLAINS HIS PLANS TO POWELL IN CALCUTTA, ANOTHER CONVERSATION IS TAKING PLACE AT THE SKY BAND BASE.
YOU CAN SEE HOW FAR THE BARONESS WILL TRUST YOU. EXCEPT WHEN YOU ARE TIED TO HER APRON STRINGS, SHE KEEPS YOU LOCKED UP IN HERE -- LIKE A BLUE-RIBBON PONY.
RUN ALONG, SALA. I'M BUSY.
2-19
SHE CAN'T ORDER ME AROUND AND TELL ME WHO I CAN SEE, AND WHO I CAN'T. I'M THE WING OF THE SKY BAND, SECOND IN COMMAND. JUST LET HER DARE TRY ANYTHING WITH ME!
-- DARE TRY ANYTHING WITH ME!
SO THAT'S THE WAY IT IS, DEAR SALA. WE SHALL SEE. WE SHALL SEE!
MEANWHILE, THE BARONESS LISTENS TO THE CONVERSATION THROUGH A BAMBOO SPEAKING-TUBE, EXTENDING FROM THE PHANTOM'S CELL TO HER CHAMBERS!

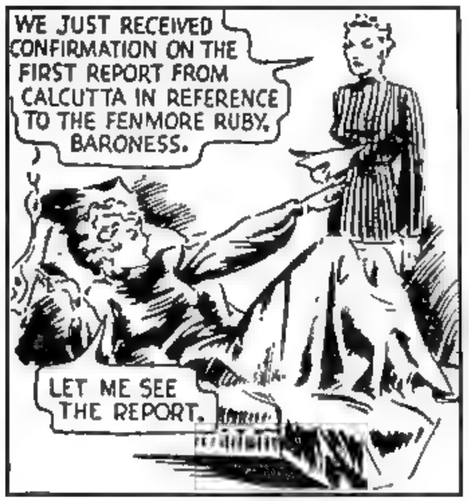
YOU SENT FOR ME?
YES, SALA, AND I'LL COME TO THE POINT. I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM OUR--FRIEND. YET FIVE MINUTES LATER, I HEAR YOU TALKING TO HIM--AND CHALLENGING ME!
I'VE AS MUCH RIGHT TO SEE HIM AS YOU HAVE! I'M WING OF THE SKY BAND! SECOND IN COMMAND!
YOU REFUSE TO OBEY MY ORDERS? YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
IN THIS CASE, IT MEANS--NOTHING! THIS IS PERSONAL! IF THE PHANTOM IS DANGEROUS TO THE SKY BAND, WHY DON'T YOU KILL HIM? YOU KNOW YOU NEVER WILL! I OBEY YOU ONLY WHERE THE BAND IS CONCERNED AND IN NOTHING ELSE!
SALA IS TOO POPULAR WITH THE BAND TO BE REMOVED CLUMSILY. THIS NEEDS TIME -- AND THOUGHT. CAREFUL THOUGHT!
2-20
Next Week
SPIDERS AND FLIES.


MR. DUNLOP, I'M FROM THE PAPER... I'VE HEARD A RUMOR THAT YOU'RE SENDING THE FENMORE RUBY TO RANGOON, ON THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER.
OH, DEAR. IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP ANYTHING FROM YOU REPORTERS!

BUT THAT'S RIGHT THROUGH THE SKY BAND TERRITORY!
I KNOW. AND IT'S BEEN WORRYING US, BUT WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE. THE GEM MUST GET THERE AT ONCE OR THE SALE IS LOST. WE'RE PAYING A TERRIFIC PREMIUM FOR INSURANCE ON IT!

WELL--YOU WON'T MIND IF WE USE THE STORY, WILL YOU?
TRY AND STOP YOU FROM USING IT, IS WHAT YOU MEAN! THERE'S NO WAY OF GETTING AROUND YOU REPORTER FELLOWS.

DID THAT SOUND CONVINCING, CAPTAIN HORTON?
PERFECT, MR. DUNLOP. THE PAPER WILL RUN THE STORY AND THE NEWS WILL BE AT SKY BAND HEADQUARTERS BEFORE THE PRINTING INK IS DRY ON THE SHEET--I'LL WAGER MY BOOTS ON THAT!


WE JUST RECEIVED CONFIRMATION ON THE FIRST REPORT FROM CALCUTTA IN REFERENCE TO THE FENMORE RUBY, BARONESS.
LET ME SEE THE REPORT.

HMM--ALL NICELY PRINTED IN A NEWSPAPER FOR THE WORLD TO SEE! FENMORE RUBY BOUND FOR RANGOON ON THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER. OWNERS FEAR SKY BAND. PAY HIGH INSURANCE PREMIUM. BAH!

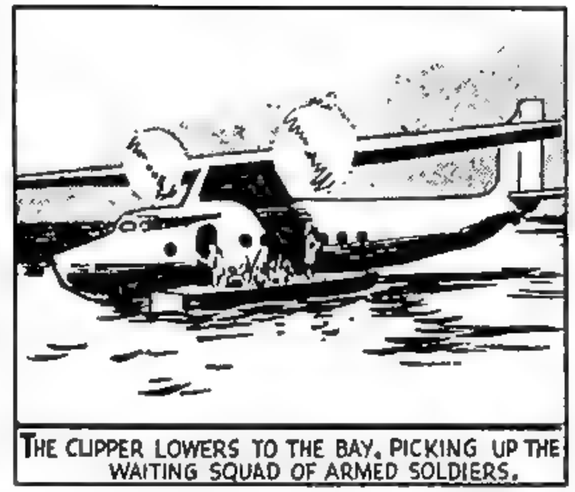
DO THEY THINK I'M A CHILD? IF THEY WERE REALLY TRANSPORTING THE RUBY, WOULD THEY TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT? SUCH AN OBVIOUS, CLUMSY TRAP IS AN INSULT TO MY INTELLIGENCE!

AND YET, PERHAPS THIS TRAP WILL HAVE ITS USE--TO ME! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET RID OF SALA, WITHOUT ANTAGONIZING THE REST OF THE BAND! AND THIS IS IT!

WELL, MR. POWELL, WE'RE ALL SET. BY THIS TIME NEWS THAT THE CLIPPER IS CARRYING THE RUBY WILL HAVE REACHED THE SKY BAND.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL BE FOOLED?

WHY NOT? PAPERS OFTEN CARRY STORIES LIKE THAT. BESIDES, THE RUBY IS WORTH A FORTUNE. I'M COUNTING ON THEIR GREED TO MAKE THEM TAKE A CHANCE.
LET'S HOPE THEY DO. GOOD LUCK.

THERE'S THE LAUNCH, CAPTAIN.
LOWER ALONG-SIDE. WE'RE PICKING UP THE SQUAD OUT HERE. I'M TAKING NO CHANCES ON A SPY FLASHING A LAST MINUTE REPORT TO THE SKY BAND.


THE CLIPPER LOWERS TO THE BAY, PICKING UP THE WAITING SQUAD OF ARMED SOLDIERS.

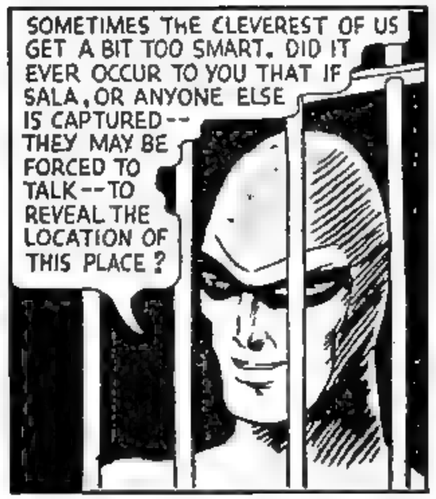
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS. THE CLIPPER CARRIES THE FENMORE RUBY. ATTACK NEAR BASSEIN, AS USUAL. WE'RE ONLY USING ONE PLANE---SALA IN COMMAND.
ONE PLANE?

WE ALWAYS USE TWO! WHY THIS CHANGE, NOW?
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, ARE YOU? IF YOU ARE, YOU CAN REMAIN HERE AND I'LL PUT SOMEONE ELSE IN CHARGE.

NO, I'M NOT AFRAID! YOU NEEDED TWO PLANES TO GET THE BLACK PEARLS! I'LL SHOW HIM I CAN GET THE RUBY WITH ONLY ONE!
I'M CERTAIN HE'LL BE IMPRESSED. ALL RIGHT, TAKE OFF!

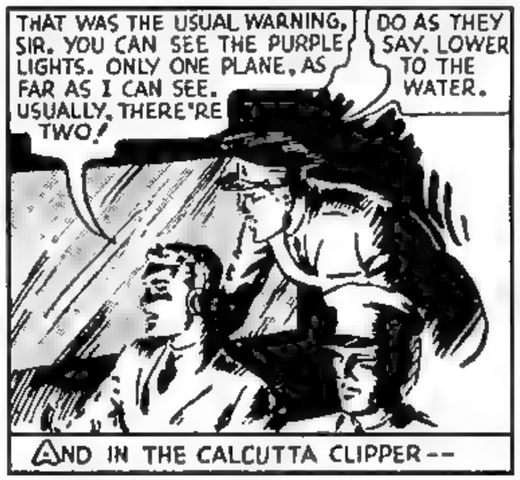
THEY WERE FOOLS ENOUGH TO PRINT THAT.... PRACTICALLY THROWING THE RUBY INTO OUR LAPS.
I SEE. I STILL SAY IT LOOKS RATHER OBVIOUS-LIKE ONE OF HORTON'S IDEAS.

SALA HAS JUST GONE UP THE RAMP. SHE'S IN CHARGE. THIS TRIP.
OH-HO--I SEE.


SOMETIMES THE CLEVEREST OF US GET A BIT TOO SMART. DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT IF SALA, OR ANYONE ELSE IS CAPTURED-- THEY MAY BE FORCED TO TALK--TO REVEAL THE LOCATION OF THIS PLACE?

THE MEMBERS OF THE SKY BAND ARE UNDER OATH NOT TO REVEAL ANYTHING. AND NO ONE WOULD EVER USE THIRD DEGREE METHODS ON A WOMAN.
I SEE. YOU ATTACK LIKE A MAN-AND THEN HIDE BEHIND YOUR SKIRTS IN TIME OF DANGER. NOT QUITE LOGICAL, IS IT?

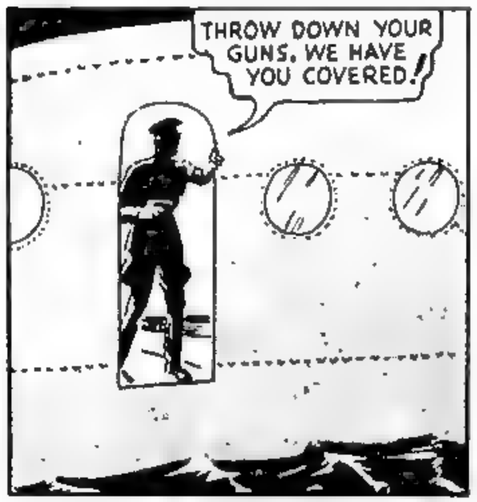
THERE'S THE CLIPPER. GIVE THE USUAL WARNING.
CALCUTTA CLIPPER. LOWER AT ONCE OR WE'LL DROP YOU!


THAT WAS THE USUAL WARNING, SIR. YOU CAN SEE THE PURPLE LIGHTS. ONLY ONE PLANE, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE. USUALLY, THERE'RE TWO!
DO AS THEY SAY. LOWER TO THE WATER.
AND IN THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER--

GET SET, BOYS. THIS IS IT. KEEP LOW UNTIL THE PLANE PULLS UP ALONG-SIDE US. HOLD FIRE UNTIL I GIVE THE COMMAND.

THIS'LL BE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR THE SKY BAND. USUALLY, THEY DESCEND ON AN UNARMED, HELPLESS PLANE. THIS TIME, THEY'RE FLYING INTO A HORNET'S' NEST!
CONTINUED

SALA AND HER SKY BAND FOLLOWERS LOWER TO THE WATER, NOT KNOWING THAT THE CALCUTTA CLIPPER IS FILLED WITH SOLDIERS.
THEY'RE CLIMBING OUT NOW. WAIT FOR MY ORDER. I DON'T WANT TO FIRE UNLESS WE HAVE TO. IF WE DO, SHOOT LOW. WE'RE TAKING THESE PIRATES ALIVE!


THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS. WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

IN REPLY, SALA FIRES POINT-BLANK!
YOU DON'T SAY!

WHY, YOU- FIRE!

YOU RATS WERE LUCKY. WE KEPT OUR GUNS LOW! COME ON, BOYS. CARRY THE OTHERS INTO THE CLIPPER!
OH—MY LEG!

SALA!
HORTON--SO IT'S YOU AGAIN! GUESS YOU'LL GET A MEDAL FOR THIS, WITH A NICE PINK RIBBON, TO MATCH!

SAY-- THIS ONE'S A GIRL!
SO'S THIS ONE! THEY'RE ALL DAMES! IS THIS SKY BAND MADE UP OF SKIRTS EXCLUSIVELY?

ANOTHER INCH AND YOU'D REALLY HAVE PUT A DENT IN ME. GUESS I'M LUCKY IT WAS YOU, INSTEAD A MAN.
I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME. AND TELL YOUR SOLDIER BOYS WE'RE LADIES, NOT SKIRTS.

YOUR BOY SCOUTS DIDN'T DO MUCH BETTER THAN I DID, HORTON. I WAS ONLY SCRATCHED.
YES, BY MY ORDERS. NOW WE'RE GOING TO PLAY A LITTLE QUESTIONS-AND-ANSWERS GAME. I ASK, YOU ANSWER.

IS THE SKY BAND MADE UP ENTIRELY OF WOMEN?
YES, CAPTAIN. IT'S ALL QUITE CHUMMY, LIKE A LITTLE SEWING-CIRCLE.

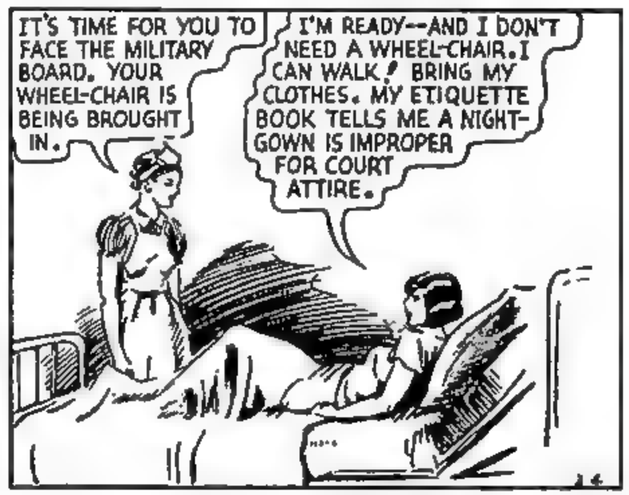
YOU'LL BE GIVEN YOUR FREEDOM IF YOU LEAD US TO YOUR SKY BAND BASE.
AND IF I DON'T?

THEN YOU'LL TAKE WHAT'S COMING TO YOU BEFORE A MILITARY TRIBUNAL, ON CHARGES OF PIRACY AND MURDER!
RUN ALONG, CAPTAIN. I'M TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES. UNLIKE OTHER SEWING-CIRCLES, WE NEVER GOSSIP ABOUT EACH OTHER!
tomorrow — SALA REFLECTS

WHAT A SIMPLE FOOL I WAS--TO FALL FOR THIS TRAP. THE BARONESS KNEW IT WAS A TRAP! I'D HAVE SEEN IT MYSELF, IF I HADN'T BEEN SO ANXIOUS TO IMPRESS-- HIM!

AH--THE PHANTOM. THERE'S NO OTHER MAN LIKE HIM! I THOUGHT THE SKY BAND WAS TOO STRONG FOR ANYONE. YET HE'S DESTROYING IT--WITHOUT LIFTING A HAND.

BUT SHE'S ALONE WITH HIM NOW. SHE GOT ME OUT OF THE WAY VERY NEATLY. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM, SALA--- BUT NEITHER IS SHE!


IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FACE THE MILITARY BOARD. YOUR WHEEL-CHAIR IS BEING BROUGHT IN.
I'M READY--AND I DON'T NEED A WHEEL-CHAIR. I CAN WALK! BRING MY CLOTHES. MY ETIQUETTE BOOK TELLS ME A NIGHT-GOWN IS IMPROPER FOR COURT ATTIRE.

SALA FACES THE MILITARY BOARD OF INQUIRY.
YOU MUST ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS! WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY SAYING THIS IS A PERSONAL AFFAIR?
JUST THAT. I'LL SETTLE MY OWN GRUDGES--IF AND WHEN I CAN.
WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR PERSONAL GRUDGES. I WARN YOU IF YOU DON'T CO-OPERATE WITH US NOW--AND LEAD US TO THE SKY BAND BASE--
--YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE! BECAUSE, IF YOURE LUCKY, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN PRISON. WE DISLIKE EXECUTING WOMEN-- BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME!
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THAT. ALL RIGHT! LOAD YOUR BOMBERS! I'LL TAKE YOU TO OUR BASE! IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!
tomorrow—ATTACK!

SALA LEADS THE MILITARY AIR SQUADRON TO THE ISLE OF HERONS, BASE OF THE SKY BAND.
THERE IT IS--THAT LITTLE SPECK AHEAD. I WARN YOU --DON'T WASTE TIME. OUR--THEIR DETECTORS PROBABLY HAVE ALREADY CAUGHT OUR PROPELLER SOUND.
DON'T WORRY--WE WON'T!
WE'VE RADIOED THE WARNING-- FOR UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER-- BUT THERE'S NO ANSWER!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO-- WE GO INTO BOMBING FORMATION AT ONCE!
HE'S DOWN THERE--LOCKED UP IN A CELL LIKE A RAT. HE'LL DIE WITH THE REST. BUT AT LEAST---SHE WON'T GET HIM!
ONE TERRIFIC DETONATION FOLLOWS ANOTHER AS THE HEAVY AERIAL BOMBS REND THE ISLE OF HERONS!

DESERTED! EMPTY AS AN OLD BEER BOTTLE!
BY THE LOOKS OF IT, SIR, I'D SAY THEY GOT AWAY IN A HURRY--- AND NOT LONG AGO. WE FOUND A STOVE THAT WAS STILL WARM.
AFTER DEVASTATING THE SKY BAND BASE WITH AN AERIAL BOMBARDMENT, HORTON'S SQUADRON LANDS

DID YOU SEE THE RAMP LEADING UNDERGROUND? COMPLETE HANGAR AT THE BOTTOM. PRETTY SMOOTH.
YES, VERY! THERE'S SOMEONE --THERE!

SALA--WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE? I TOLD YOU TO REMAIN IN THE PLANE!
I WAS LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN PARTY, CAPTAIN. IF THE BOMBS HADN'T FINISHED HER--I WAS GOING TO!

TAKE HER AWAY AND GUARD HER! SHE'S AS VICIOUS AS A WILD-CAT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS TO LOOK AT HER.
ME, TOO, SIR. MIND IF I GET ONE OF THE OTHER BOYS TO STAND GUARD WITH ME?

WELL, THE LIGHT BULB YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING WENT OUT AT LAST. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS THAT THE SENDING APPARATUS AT OUR BASE HAS JUST BEEN DESTROYED--PROBABLY BY BOMBS.
MEANWHILE, MANY FLYING HOURS AWAY--

YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING. WHAT MADE YOU GUESS THAT SALA WOULD TURN INFORMER?
A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME. I SUPPOSE YOU REALIZE THAT ALL THIS TROUBLE IS YOUR FAULT. MY FIRST SERIOUS SET-BACK--CAUSED BY YOU!

I DON'T FOLLOW YOU. YOU MEAN THAT YOU REALLY KNEW ABOUT THE TRAP AND KNOWINGLY SENT SALA INTO IT? AND YOU DID THIS BECAUSE---
BECAUSE IT WAS MY WISH.

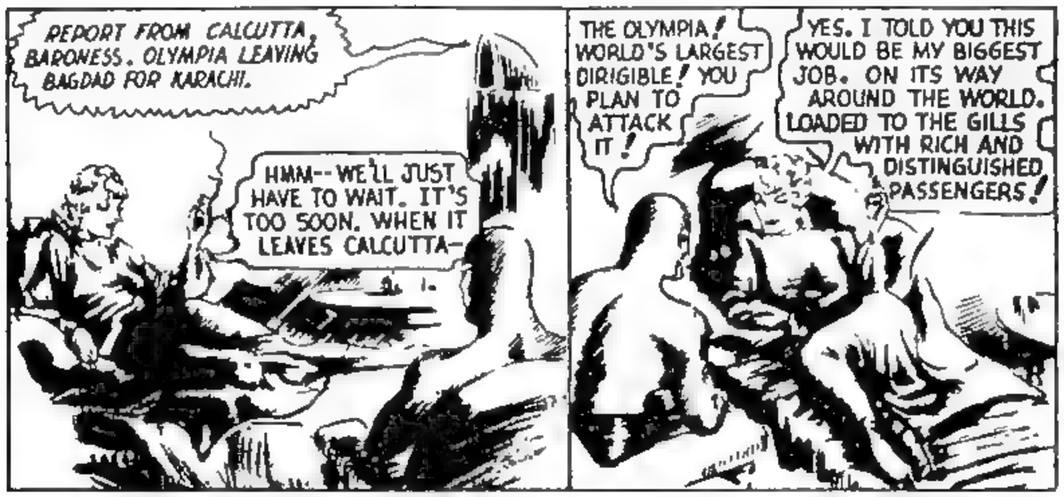
LET US NOT BE TOO INQUISITIVE, MY FRIEND, AND LET US STOP TALKING ABOUT SALA. THE TOPIC BORES ME.

DEVIL--OLD BOY! BARONESS, CAN'T YOU LET HIM OUT FOR A LITTLE AIR?
HE REMAINS CAGED--LIKE HIS MASTER--UNTIL I CAN LEARN TO TRUST HIM, FULLY.

THIS RAMP IS JUST LIKE THE ONE ON THE ISLE OF HERONS.
YES. THIS BASE IS A DUPLICATE OF THE OTHER. WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR A YEAR OR SO--JUST IN CASE WE EVER NEEDED IT.

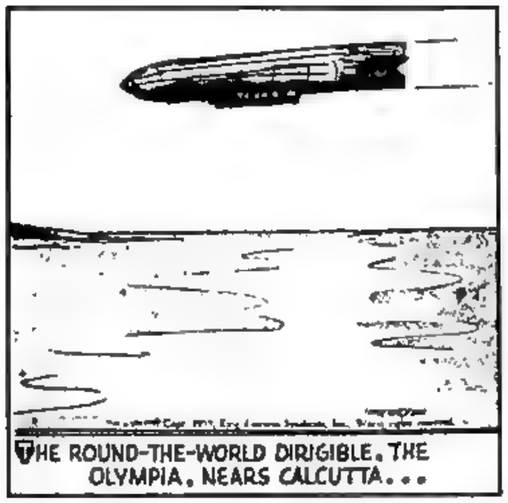
WE'VE ESTABLISHED A NEW RADIO CONTACT IN CALCUTTA--JUST IN CASE SALA SHOULD DECIDE TO REVEAL THE OLD ONE.
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING THAT SALA WILL KNOW ABOUT THIS NEW BASE AS WELL?

I'M FORGETTING NOTHING. WE WILL REMAIN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO PLAN THE BIGGEST FEAT OF OUR CAREER! THEN--WE MOVE! HA--OUTWITTING MEN! IT'S THE ONLY LIFE!


REPORT FROM CALCUTTA, BARONESS. OLYMPIA LEAVING BAGDAD FOR KARACHI.
HMM--WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT. IT'S TOO SOON. WHEN IT LEAVES CALCUTTA--
THE OLYMPIA! WORLD'S LARGEST DIRIGIBLE! YOU PLAN TO ATTACK IT!
YES. I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD BE MY BIGGEST JOB. ON ITS WAY AROUND THE WORLD. LOADED TO THE GILLS WITH RICH AND DISTINGUISHED PASSENGERS!

THAT MEANS--NOT ONE RANSOM--BUT MANY! AH--AND WHAT AN ADVENTURE IT WILL BE!
KIDNAPING? THAT'S A NEW ANGLE FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?

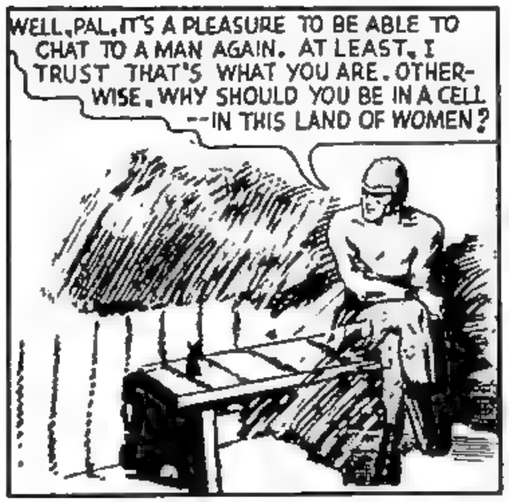
NO, JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF THE SAME THING. IT WILL BE THE MOST DARING FEAT OF PIRACY IN ALL HISTORY.
BARONESS--DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE YOU CATCH THEM.


THE ROUND-THE-WORLD DIRIGIBLE, THE OLYMPIA, NEARS CALCUTTA...

WELL, I'M BACK IN FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS AGAIN BARONESS, ARE YOU ACTUALLY SERIOUS ABOUT ATTACKING THE OLYMPIA?
AM I EVER ANYTHING BUT SERIOUS? A CLUMSY GAS-BAG LIKE THAT WILL BE AN EASY MARK.
3-12

SOMEDAY, YOU'RE GOING TO GET CAUGHT. WHAT THEN?
HM--IT'S A CHANCE WE ALL TAKE, BUT I'M READY. I'LL NEVER BE PARADED IN A COURT-ROOM BEFORE GAPING YOKELS!

THIS LOCKET CONTAINS A SMALL BUT SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF VERY POTENT POISON. WHEN MY TIME COMES, IT'LL BE MY LAST JOKE! YOU SEE, I'LL BEAT THE HANGMAN-- AS I'VE ALWAYS BEATEN ALL OTHER MEN!


WELL, PAL, IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO CHAT TO A MAN AGAIN. AT LEAST, I TRUST THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE. OTHERWISE, WHY SHOULD YOU BE IN A CELL --IN THIS LAND OF WOMEN?

WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO? I HEARD YOU! DON'T DENY IT!
THERE'S NOTHING TO DENY. I WAS CHATTING TO THAT LITTLE MOUSE THERE. HE'S BEEN COMING AROUND EVERY MORNING FOR CRUMBS.
3-13

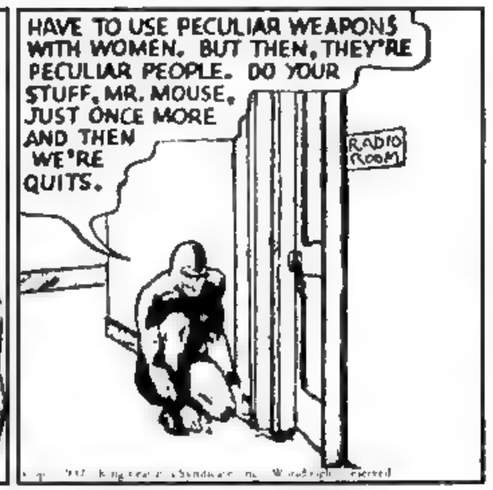
A MOUSE! UGH! HORRIBLE! I'LL HAVE RAT POISON SCATTERED AROUND YOUR CELL.
OH, NO, YOU DON'T. THAT LITTLE MOUSE AND I HAVE BECOME PALS. IF HE GOES, I GO.

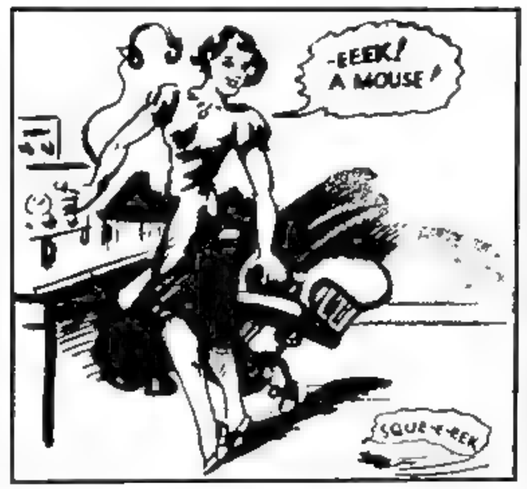
LITTLE MOUSE, IF ONLY I COULD SLIP THROUGH THE BARS LIKE YOU DO. I CAN'T DELAY ANY LONGER. THE OLYMPIA IS THE LAST STRAW. I'VE GOT TO ACT IN A HURRY--NOW! BUT HOW?
CONTINUED

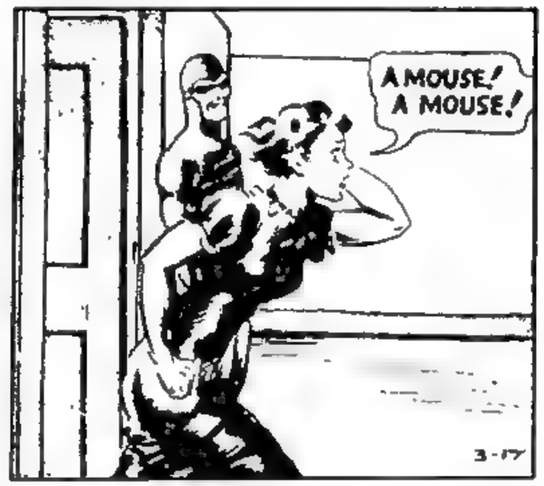
The BARONESS TELLS THE PHANTOM THAT THE SKY BAND PLANS TO ATTACK THE OLYMPIA, WORLD'S LARGEST DIRIGIBLE!
MR. MOUSE, WE CAN'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH IT! IT'S UP TO ME TO STOP HER! BUT HOW? IRON BARS ARE IRON BARS, AFTER ALL. MAYBE I'M A SOFTY--BUT I CAN'T SLUG A WOMAN. AND YET--SAY!
YOU ASKED TO SEE ME? AN URGENT MATTER?
YES, BARONESS, I WANT TO ASK A FAVOR. I HOPE IT'S NOT ASKING TOO MUCH. IT'S SOMETHING THAT I--THAT I REALLY LOVE.
LOVE? AH--HOW I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS. EXCEPT FOR YOUR FREEDOM, YOU MAY HAVE ANYTHING. BUT PERHAPS YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR FREEDOM, EH? TELL ME --WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WANT? JUST WHISPER TO ME---
ALL RIGHT, I'LL WHISPER IT, BARONESS.—SH—I'D LIKE A NICE PIECE OF CHEESE.
CHEESE!
3-15

USING CHEESE AS A BAIT, THE PHANTOM TRAPS THE SMALL MOUSE IN HIS CELL.
YOU LIKE CHEESE, TOO, EH? WELL, I WON'T KEEP YOU LONG, PAL. I JUST WANT TO BORROW YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES. HONEST, I'LL LET YOU GO.
DID YOU CALL ME? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST WANTED TO SHOW YOU A FRIEND OF MINE.
E-YEE! A MOUSE!
AND NOW I'LL HAVE TO TROUBLE YOU FOR THE KEY TO MY CELL. AND STOP WRIGGLING OR I'LL DROP THE MOUSE IN YOUR HAIR!
3-16

FUNNY HOW EVEN A HARD-BOILED TWO-GUN GAL LIKE YOU IS AFRAID OF A LITTLE MOUSE. NOW, YOU SIT QUIETLY THERE OR I'LL SIC HIM ON YOU.


HAVE TO USE PECULIAR WEAPONS WITH WOMEN. BUT THEN, THEY'RE PECULIAR PEOPLE. DO YOUR STUFF, MR. MOUSE, JUST ONCE MORE AND THEN WE'RE QUITS.
RADIO ROOM


-EEEK! A MOUSE!
SQUE-EEK


A MOUSE! A MOUSE!
3-17

CALCUTTA...X9ZT3... CALLING X9ZT3...CALLING CALCUTTA..X9ZT3...

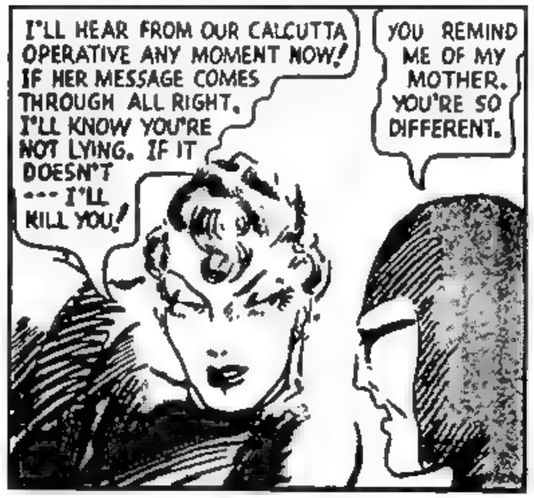
NEVER MIND WHO I AM, OR WHERE I AM OR HOW I KNEW YOUR CALL NUMBER. TAKE DOWN A MESSAGE AND SEE THAT IT IS SENT TO CAPTAIN MELVILLE HORTON. YES, HORTON.

I'M GOING TO TALK FAST AND HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO REPEAT A WORD. SO HERE GOES. NOW GET IT!

--AND THEN HE TIED ME UP AND--
--I DIDN'T SEE HIM. I JUST SAW THE MOUSE. I RAN OUT---
FOOLS! HE'S INSIDE AND THE DOOR'S LOCKED!

I'M GIVING YOU YOUR LAST CHANCE! COME OUT OR WE'LL DYNAMITE THE DOOR!
AND WRECK YOUR UNDERGROUND HANGAR? FAT CHANCE! BARONESS, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT CELL AND I'VE GOT A GUN! I DARE YOU TO COME IN AND GET ME!
WHAT CAN WE DO? WE DARE N'T USE DYNAMITE DOWN HERE.
WE COULD STARVE HIM OUT--
AND LEAVE HIM IN THE RADIO-ROOM? NO! WAIT! BRING ME HIS ANIMAL!
I'VE GOT DEVIL, YOUR ANIMAL, OUT HERE. IF YOU DON'T COME OUT IN THIRTY SECONDS, I'LL BLOW OFF HIS HEAD!

The BARONESS THREATENS TO KILL DEVIL IF THE PHANTOM DOES NOT COME OUT OF THE RADIO-ROOM.
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'VE GOT DEVIL OUT THERE? DEVIL, DEVIL, CAN YOU HEAR ME? LET ME HEAR YOU, FELLA.
HE JUST SPOKE FOR HIMSELF. YOU'VE GOT TEN SECONDS LEFT TO DECIDE.
WOOF!
WELL, THIS IS YOUR ROUND, BARONESS.
PUT HANDCUFFS ON HIM! THROW DOWN YOUR PISTOL!
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A DOG'S AGE, FELLA. DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO LET HER SHOOT YOU, DID YOU? I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SUCKER ABOUT YOU AND SO HELP ME, I GUESS I ALWAYS WILL.



MEANWHILE, IN THE SECRET CALCUTTA OFFICE OF THE SKY BAND--

WE REACHED THEIR CALCUTTA OFFICE JUST IN TIME. THE HOME BASE OF THE SKY BAND SUSPECTS NOTHING.
GOOD! WHAT ELSE WAS IN THIS PHANTOM'S MESSAGE?

HE SAYS TO PERMIT THE OLYMPIA TO LEAVE HER MOORINGS AT THE REGULAR TIME. THEN, AFTER A HALF-HOUR OF FLIGHT, HAVE HER TURN BACK TO CALCUTTA. A PRECAUTION, I SUPPOSE, JUST IN CASE THERE ARE ANY OTHER SKY BAND SPIES ABOUT.
3-24

DASH IT ALL, HORTON, WHY DON'T WE ATTACK THEIR BASE?
HE SAID NOT TO. THEIR DETECTORS WILL WARN THEM. THEY'D BE AWAY BEFORE WE COULD REACH THEM. NO, INSTEAD OF A HELPLESS DIRIGIBLE, THE SKY BAND WILL MEET MY SQUADRON!

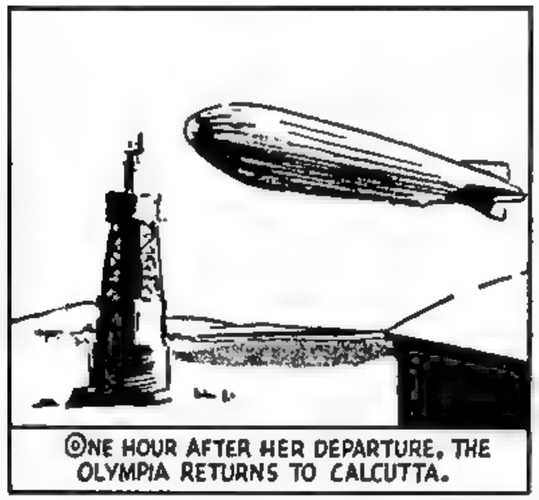
IMAGINE! ATTACKING THE OLYMPIA! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST SCANDAL THE ORIENT HAS EVER KNOWN.
AND IT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED -- EXCEPT FOR ONE MAN! HOW I'VE MISJUDGED HIM! HE'S BEEN PLAYING A WAITING GAME --ALL ALONG!

YOU'LL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE ME CAPTURE THE OLYMPIA! THEN ---I'LL HAVE THE JOY OF WATCHING YOU DIE --- SLOWLY-- SLOWLY!

PRETENDING NOT TO FEEL THE WHIP, EH? TOO PROUD TO CRINGE, EH!
YOU'RE NOT A WOMAN. YOU'RE A VICIOUS ANIMAL. SOMEHOW, I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU. YOU'VE MADE A MESS OF YOUR LIFE.
3-25

TAKE HIM-- -AWAY!

THE --THE ONLY MAN I --I'VE EVER LOVED --HE --HE WAS RIGHT--BUT-- BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO-TO TURN BACK--NOW--
AND LATER. IN HER OWN ROOM--


ONE HOUR AFTER HER DEPARTURE, THE OLYMPIA RETURNS TO CALCUTTA.

I SAY! THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! WHY HAVE WE COME BACK TO CALCUTTA?
IT'S UNHEARD OF! YOUR SUPERIORS WILL HEAR ABOUT THIS FROM ME!
SORRY, GENTLEMEN, I HAVE MY ORDERS.

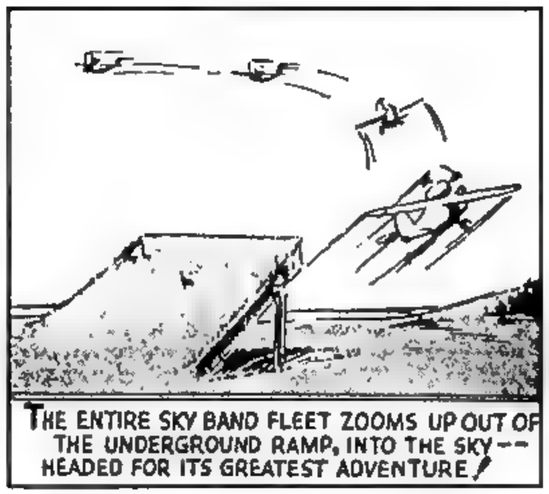
CAPTAIN HORTON --WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS DELAY?
GENTLEMEN, YOU CAN THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS YOU ARE HERE. YOU'VE ESCAPED KIDNAPING, POSSIBLE DEATH.

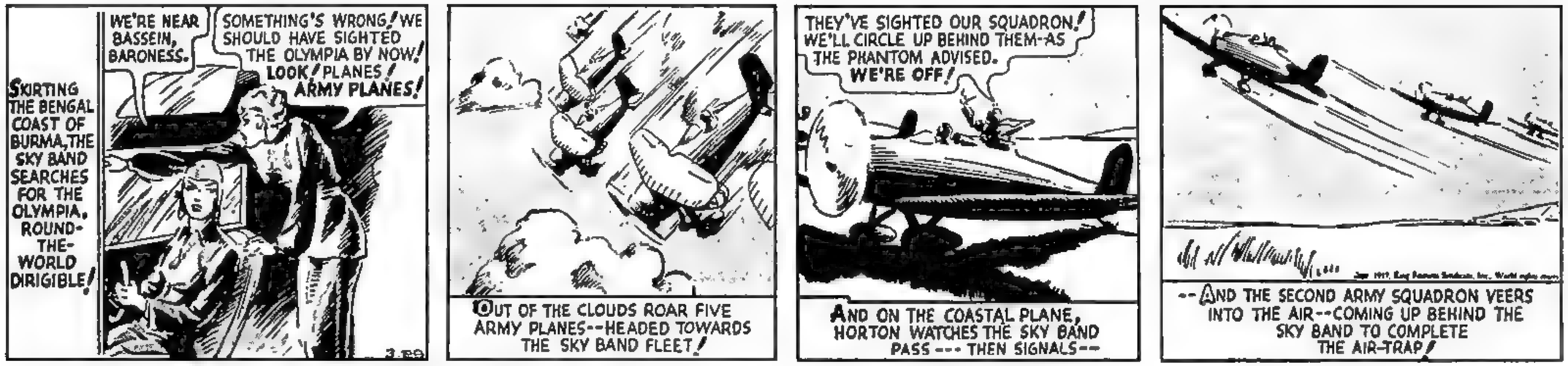
AND YOU OWE IT ALL TO ONE BRAVE MAN WHOM YOU'VE NEVER SEEN. HE'S WORKED ALL ALONE, IN THE DARK, UNAIDED. AND NOW HE'S PROBABLY GIVEN HIS LIFE-- AS WELL--
3 26

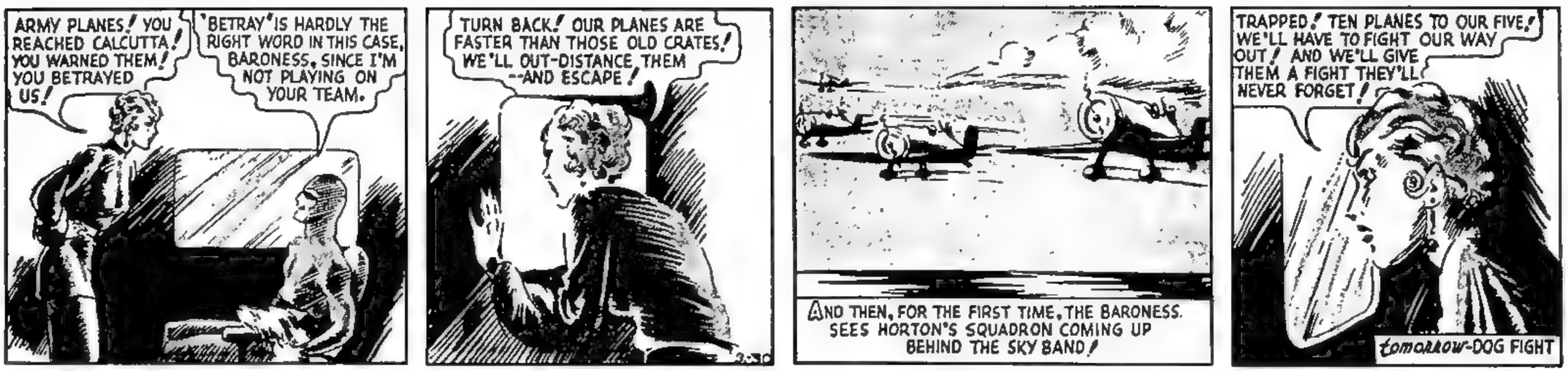
WE LEAVE NOW! YOU SHALL SEE ME TRIUMPH--IN SPITE OF YOU!
WELL, IT WAS A GOOD FIGHT WHILE IT LASTED.

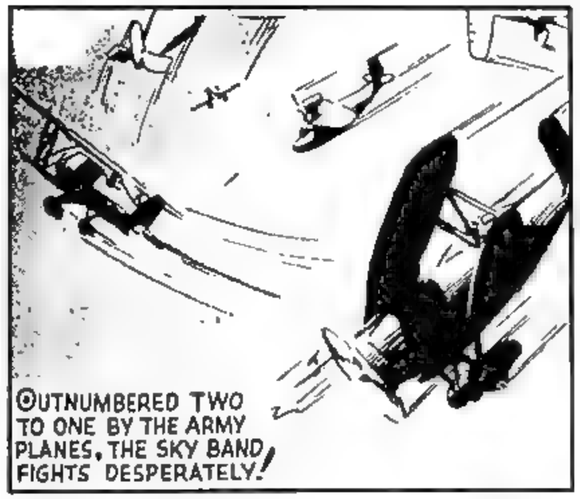
I TRUSTED YOU--WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU MY LOVE! BUT YOU TRIED TO TRICK ME. YOU'LL NEVER RETURN HERE. THE SHARKS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL HAVE YOU IN TWO HOURS!
AND I'LL BET IT'LL BE A FEMALE SHARK, AT THAT.

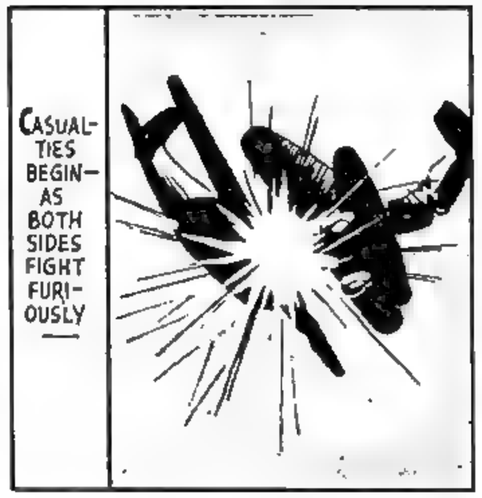
SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT SHE'S NOT MEETING THE OLYMPIA. HORTON'S FIGHTING PLANES WILL BE WAITING FOR HER. IT'S THE END FOR US, DEVIL--EITHER WAY. AND DIANA WILL NEVER KNOW THAT--THAT I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HER.
3·27


THE ENTIRE SKY BAND FLEET ZOOMS UP OUT OF THE UNDERGROUND RAMP, INTO THE SKY-- HEADED FOR ITS GREATEST ADVENTURE!

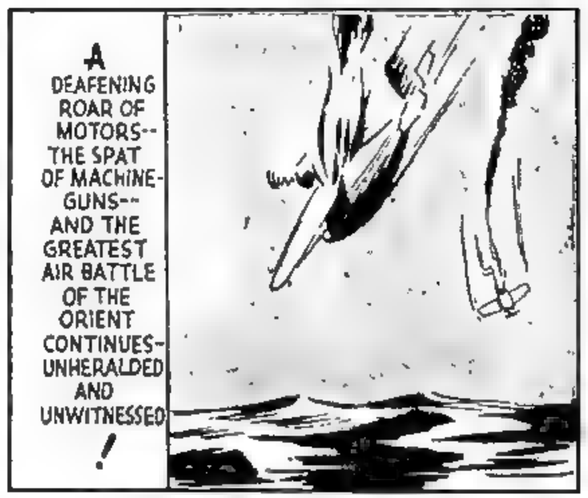

SKIRTING THE BENGAL COAST OF BURMA, THE SKY BAND SEARCHES FOR THE OLYMPIA, ROUND-THE-WORLD DIRIGIBLE!
WE'RE NEAR BASSEIN, BARONESS.
SOMETHING'S WRONG! WE SHOULD HAVE SIGHTED THE OLYMPIA BY NOW! LOOK! PLANES! ARMY PLANES!
OUT OF THE CLOUDS ROAR FIVE ARMY PLANES--HEADED TOWARDS THE SKY BAND FLEET!
THEY'VE SIGHTED OUR SQUADRON! WE'LL CIRCLE UP BEHIND THEM-AS THE PHANTOM ADVISED. WE'RE OFF!
AND ON THE COASTAL PLANE, HORTON WATCHES THE SKY BAND PASS --- THEN SIGNALS--
--AND THE SECOND ARMY SQUADRON VEERS INTO THE AIR--COMING UP BEHIND THE SKY BAND TO COMPLETE THE AIR-TRAP!

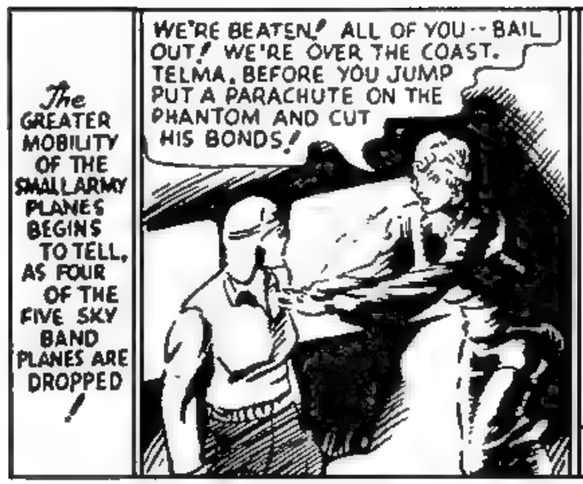

ARMY PLANES! YOU REACHED CALCUTTA! YOU WARNED THEM! YOU BETRAYED US!
"BETRAY" IS HARDLY THE RIGHT WORD IN THIS CASE, BARONESS, SINCE I'M NOT PLAYING ON YOUR TEAM.
TURN BACK! OUR PLANES ARE FASTER THAN THOSE OLD CRATES! WE'LL OUT-DISTANCE THEM --AND ESCAPE!
AND THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE BARONESS SEES HORTON'S SQUADRON COMING UP BEHIND THE SKY BAND!
TRAPPED! TEN PLANES TO OUR FIVE! WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT! AND WE'LL GIVE THEM A FIGHT THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!
tomorrow-DOG FIGHT


OUTNUMBERED TWO TO ONE BY THE ARMY PLANES, THE SKY BAND FIGHTS DESPERATELY!


CASUALTIES BEGIN— AS BOTH SIDES FIGHT FURIOUSLY —

THOSE DEVILS--CAN FIGHT! ALL WOMEN! THEY'RE -- WILD-CATS!


A DEAFENING ROAR OF MOTORS-- THE SPAT OF MACHINE-GUNS-- AND THE GREATEST AIR BATTLE OF THE ORIENT CONTINUES- UNHERALDED AND UNWITNESSED !


The GREATER MOBILITY OF THE SMALL ARMY PLANES BEGINS TO TELL, AS FOUR OF THE FIVE SKY BAND PLANES ARE DROPPED !
WE'RE BEATEN! ALL OF YOU--BAIL OUT! WE'RE OVER THE COAST. TELMA, BEFORE YOU JUMP PUT A PARACHUTE ON THE PHANTOM AND CUT HIS BONDS!

UNWILLINGLY--BUT OBEDIENT TO THE LAST, THE BARONESS' CREW BAILS OUT!

I SEE YOU LOCKED THE CONTROLS, BARONESS. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
YOU'VE DESTROYED MY BAND- DESTROYED ME! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU--DO YOU HEAR! AND LET YOUR DEAD BODY FLOAT DOWN TO THE SHARKS!

THE SKY BAND DIES--BUT SO DOES THE PHANTOM --NOW!
Tomorrow—THE GHOST WHO WALKS.

The BARONESS SHOOTS POINT-BLANK AT THE PHANTOM --THEN HER EYES WIDEN WITH TERROR ---
BUT--I SHOT--YOU--I SAW THE BULLET STRIKE YOU---
HOW MANY--HOW MANY BULLETS. --DO YOU WANT ?
AND THE BARONESS SHOOTS, A SECOND TIME!

SAY SOMETHING! SAY SOMETHING! THE NATIVES --THE NATIVES SAY YOU ARE IMMORTAL--- THAT YOU CANNOT BE KILLED! IT CAN'T BE TRUE --BUT--BUT IT IS!
42

IS THIS WHY YOU'VE NEVER --FEARED ME---LAUGHED AT ME ? YOU ARE--- IMMORTAL ? YOU ARE--THE GHOST WHO WALKS! OH!
THE COLD NERVE OF THE BARONESS VANISHES AS SHE SCREAMS IN TERROR!

The BARONESS RECOILS IN TERROR WHEN HER TWO BULLETS FAIL TO STOP THE ON-COMING PHANTOM!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS! YOU'VE MOCKED ME--- ALL ALONG---MY SKY BAND DESTROYED---
AND THE BARONESS QUICKLY LIFTS HER POISON-LOCKET TO HER LIPS--

DEAD--BY HER OWN HAND--AS SHE ALWAYS SAID SHE WOULD DO --WHEN THE TIME CAME--
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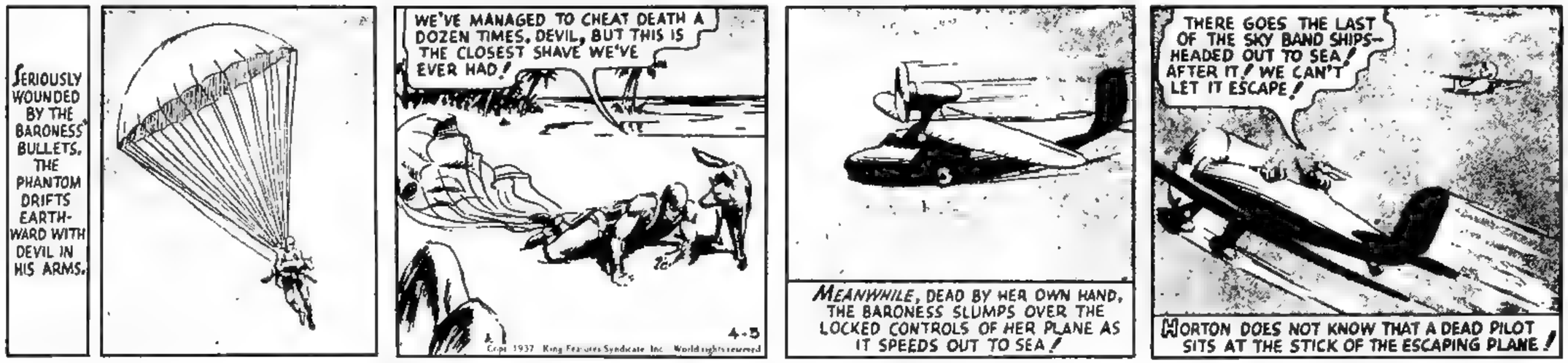
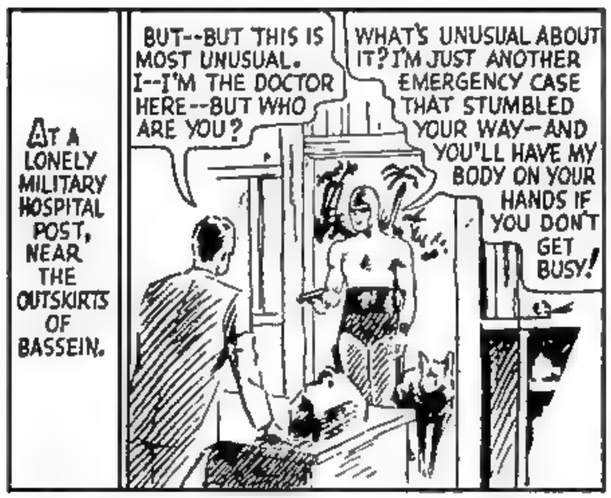
MAINTAIN-ING CONSCIOUS-NESS BY SHEER WILL-POWER, THE PHANTOM STAGGERS DOWN THE NARROW AISLE—
COME ON--DEVIL--WE HAVE TO --GET OUT OF HERE--- I'VE GOT TWO OF HER BULLETS--IN ME--
43

-AND REACHING THE CABIN DOOR, REELS, THEN STUMBLES OUT INTO SPACE!


SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY THE BARONESS' BULLETS, THE PHANTOM DRIFTS EARTHWARD WITH DEVIL IN HIS ARMS.
WE'VE MANAGED TO CHEAT DEATH A DOZEN TIMES, DEVIL, BUT THIS IS THE CLOSEST SHAVE WE'VE EVER HAD!
4-5
Copr 1937 King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved
MEANWHILE, DEAD BY HER OWN HAND, THE BARONESS SLUMPS OVER THE LOCKED CONTROLS OF HER PLANE AS IT SPEEDS OUT TO SEA!
THERE GOES THE LAST OF THE SKY BAND SHIPS— HEADED OUT TO SEA! AFTER IT! WE CAN'T LET IT ESCAPE!
HORTON DOES NOT KNOW THAT A DEAD PILOT SITS AT THE STICK OF THE ESCAPING PLANE!

HORTON PURSUES THE ESCAPING SKY BAND PLANE, NOT KNOWING THAT THE BARONESS --DEAD-- SITS AT THE LOCKED CONTROLS OF THE PLANE.
HORTON'S PURSUIT PLANE GAINS GROUND, AND SWOOPS DOWN ON THE ILL-FATED SHIP-
—BUT BEFORE HE CAN REACH IT, A SUDDEN SQUALL SENDS THE PLANE AND ITS DEAD PILOT TO A WATERY GRAVE!
THE END OF THE SKY BAND--AND THE BARONESS, ENDING THE MOST RUTHLESS PIRACY I'VE EVER KNOWN, DEVIL. AND THEY WERE ALL WOMEN! IT'S VERY STRANGE---
Copr 1937 King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved
ONLY A WOMAN COULD HAVE MAINTAINED THE BAND AS SHE DID. AND YET, BY DOUBLE-CROSSING SALA, SHE BETRAYED THE BAND AND DESTROYED HERSELF--BECAUSE SHE WAS A WOMAN--WITH A WOMAN'S HEART AND HATE--AND JEALOUSY.
4-6


AT A LONELY MILITARY HOSPITAL POST, NEAR THE OUTSKIRTS OF BASSEIN.
BUT--BUT THIS IS MOST UNUSUAL. I--I'M THE DOCTOR HERE--BUT WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT'S UNUSUAL ABOUT IT? I'M JUST ANOTHER EMERGENCY CASE THAT STUMBLED YOUR WAY--AND YOU'LL HAVE MY BODY ON YOUR HANDS IF YOU DON'T GET BUSY!

GOOD HEAVENS, MAN! TWO BULLETS IN YOUR CHEST! HOW FAR DID YOU COME?
FAR ENOUGH. UH--TAKE IT EASY--

AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, NO VITAL SPOTS WERE TOUCHED. AMAZING VITALITY!
NO VITAL SPOTS, EH? NEVER DID SEE A WOMAN WHO COULD SHOOT STRAIGHT. WELL, GET GOING.

BUT--THIS REQUIRES HOSPITALIZATION--AND--AND--WON'T YOU PUT YOUR GUN AWAY?
NO. WHAT'S MORE, I'M IN A HURRY. GET STARTED--AND STOP GROWLING, DEVIL. THIS MAN ISN'T GOING TO HARM ME.

WE CAPTURED THE SURVIVORS OF THE SKY BAND, DIANA. HE WAS WITH THE BARONESS WHEN HER PLANE WENT INTO THE SEA---
I WON'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD--I WON'T--

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF FOR MISJUDGING HIM. WE HUNTED AND HOUNDED HIM--AND ALL ALONG, HE WAS TRYING TO DESTROY THE SKY BAND. I WAS A STUPID FOOL!
4-8

WELL,--THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER, MEL. I'M--GOING HOME.
DIANA, PLEASE STAY HERE. YOU'VE STILL GOT YOUR LIFE TO LIVE. I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU. I LOVE YOU, DIANA.

I'M SORRY, MEL. HE DIED, THINKING THAT I DID NOT BELIEVE IN HIM--OR WHAT IS WORSE--PERHAPS HE DIED--WITHOUT THINKING OF ME--AT ALL.

WON'T YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT GOING, DIANA?
OH, MEL—I'M ALL BROKEN UP INSIDE. I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY. I'VE GOT TO TRY TO FORGET HOW HE LOOKED THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM---

--HIS EYES, PLEADING WITH ME THROUGH HIS MASK, TRYING TO MAKE ME UNDERSTAND AS HE KISSED THAT--THAT OTHER WOMAN. I KNOW NOW THAT HE DID IT TO SAVE MY LIFE. GOOD--GOOD-BYE, MEL.

SHE'S GONE--AND THE PHANTOM'S GONE. IT'S--INCREDIBLE. THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A PHANTOM IN THE JUNGLES! EVEN NOW THE WAR DRUMS ARE STARTING AGAIN--AFTER ALL THE YEARS THAT HE'S KEPT THE PEACE OF THE JUNGLE.

GOOD--HEAVENS! AM I--SEEING THINGS? YOU!
WHERE'S DIANA?

DIANA--GONE? HORTON, YOU'VE GOT TO LEND ME AN ARMY PLANE. I'LL TAKE HER OFF THAT BOAT!
YOU DON'T WASTE ANY TIME, DO YOU? I GUESS I CAN ARRANGE THAT. I STILL HAVEN'T RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK OF SEEING YOU ALIVE AND IN ONE PIECE!

AH--TO SEE DIANA AGAIN! WE'LL MAKE IT A COMPLETE SURPRISE AND--- WHAT'S THAT! DID YOU JUST HEAR FAINT DRUM-BEATS?
YES--THEY'VE BEEN COMING STEADILY-NOW--FOR THE PAST WEEK.

THE WAR-DRUMS! AS SOON AS I TURN MY BACK ON THE JUNGLE TROUBLE STARTS! BUT I--I'VE GOT TO GO TO DIANA.
OF COURSE, YOU DO. DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR JUNGLE PEOPLE. WE'LL SETTLE THE TROUBLE.

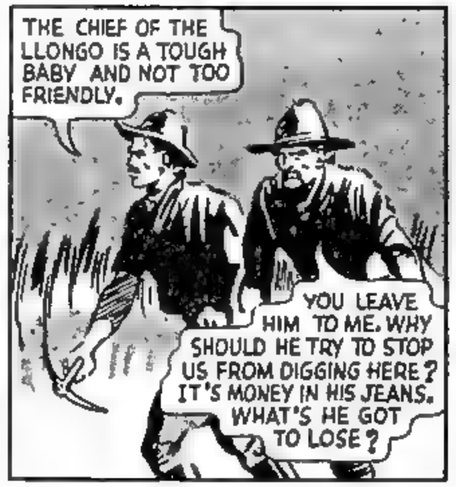
YOUR SOLDIERS? ALL THEY CAN DO IS BUTCHER. FOR CENTURIES MY LINE HAS KEPT THE PEACE OF THE JUNGLE. THERE'S NO WAY OUT. AH--DIANA--WELL, I'VE GOT TO GO BACK!
NEXT WEEK - WAR IN THE JUNGLE!

Left to right: last two illustrations from the first *Phantom* "Big Little Book" published in 1936.

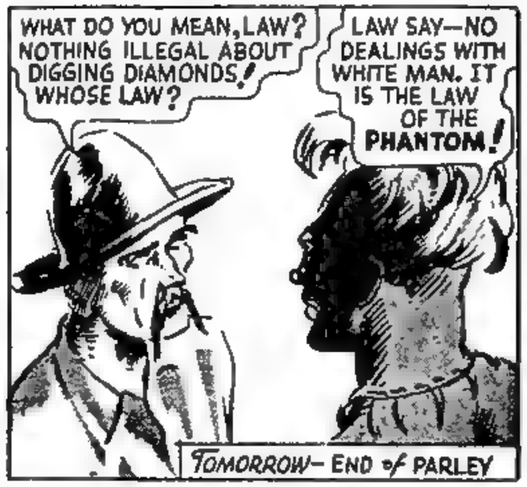
Chapter 3: The Diamond Hunters

the PHANTOM®

IN LLONGO TERRITORY, PROSPECTORS SMILEY AND HILL MAKE A DISCOVERY.
HILL, WE GOT SOMETHING HERE! DIAMOND-BEARING CLAY--OR I'LL EAT MY HAT!
SURE LOOKS LIKE IT, SMILEY. THAT'S THE THIRD STONE WE'VE PICKED UP HERE. BUT WE AIN'T GOT NOTHING --YET.


THE CHIEF OF THE LLONGO IS A TOUGH BABY AND NOT TOO FRIENDLY.
YOU LEAVE HIM TO ME. WHY SHOULD HE TRY TO STOP US FROM DIGGING HERE? IT'S MONEY IN HIS JEANS. WHAT'S HE GOT TO LOSE?

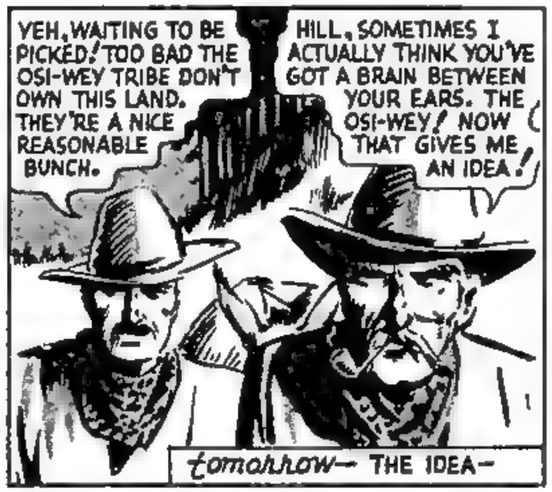
BUT, CHIEF--THERE'S REAL MONEY IN IT! IT MEANS WORK FOR YOUR PEOPLE! THE LLONGO TRIBE WILL BE THE RICHEST TRIBE IN THE JUNGLE!
NO! NO! CANNOT BREAK RULE OF JUNGLE! CANNOT BREAK LAW!
4-12


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LAW? NOTHING ILLEGAL ABOUT DIGGING DIAMONDS! WHOSE LAW?
LAW SAY—NO DEALINGS WITH WHITE MAN. IT IS THE LAW OF THE PHANTOM!
TOMORROW— END of PARLEY

The CHIEF OF THE LLONGO REFUSES TO ALLOW SMILEY AND HILL TO WORK THE DIAMOND DEPOSITS ON LLONGO TERRITORY.
PHANTOM SAY, WHEN WHITE MAN COME TO JUNGLE BRING TROUBLE. BRING SLAVERY, BRING SICKNESS. BRING GREED FOR GOLD. PEOPLE OF JUNGLE SUFFER.
NOW, CHIEF THAT'S PLAIN SILLY TALK. WHY--

PARLEY ENDED. I PROMISED OSI-WEY THAT YOU HAVE SAFE CONDUCT. THAT ENDED, TOO. YOU GO. LEAVE LLONGO LAND!
OKAY, OKAY, WE'LL GO, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL, CHIEF. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND--NO, I GUESS THERE'S NO CHANCE OF THAT.

WELL, YOU SURE HANDLED HIM! GOT A WAY WITH THE NATIVES, AIN'T YOU? WHO'S THIS PHANTOM HE KEPT TALKING ABOUT?
SOME IGNORANT SUPERSTITION, I GUESS. THE STUBBORN OLD COOT! GOSH!--WE GOTTA LEAVE ALL THEM DIAMONDS LAYING THERE!
4-13


YEH, WAITING TO BE PICKED! TOO BAD THE OSI-WEY TRIBE DON'T OWN THIS LAND. THEY'RE A NICE REASONABLE BUNCH.
HILL, SOMETIMES I ACTUALLY THINK YOU'VE GOT A BRAIN BETWEEN YOUR EARS. THE OSI-WEY! NOW THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
tomorrow— THE IDEA—

WHAT GOOD'S THE OSI-WEY TRIBE GONNA DO US, SINCE THE DIAMOND LAND'S ON LLONGO TERRITORY, SMILEY?
THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN, HILL. WE GOTTA DO A LITTLE INSIDE WORK. THERE'S BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THE TWO TRIBES AS IT IS.

"REMEMBER THAT YOUNG FELLOW, KULA? HE'S THE SON OF THE CHIEF OF THE LLONGO. WELL, HE'S IN LOVE WITH---"

"OTA, WHO'S THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF KYGANI, CHIEF OF THE OSI-WEY. AND THE GAL LOVES KULA. BUT OLD MAN KYGANI DON'T LIKE KULA--AND SAYS NIX!"

SORTA ROMEO AND JULIET STUFF, HUH? BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH OUR DIAMOND DEPOSIT?
WE STIR UP TROUBLE, SEE, SIMP? THE OSI-WEY ARE A CINCH TO CLEAN UP THE LLONGO. THEN WE STEP IN, AND GET RICH!
tomorrow
THE TWO JUNGLE FAMILIES.

WHILE THE DIAMOND PROSPECTORS, SMILEY AND HILL, PLOT TROUBLE FOR THE JUNGLE.

PAH! AGAIN I ASKED KYGANI OF THE OSI-WEY FOR THE HAND OF MY LOVE, OTA, AND HE REFUSED!
THE OSI-WEY ARE RICH AND POWERFUL, KULA, MY SON. WE OF THE LLONGO ARE A POOR TRIBE.

BUT WE HAVE MANY MEN WITH STRONG ARMS! THIS INSULT IS TOO MUCH!
CALM YOURSELF, SON. WE CANNOT BREAK THE PHANTOM'S PEACE. HE HAS SAID THAT THERE SHALL BE NO WAR IN THE JUNGLE!

KYGANI, MY FATHER, I LOVE KULA. WHY CAN I NOT MARRY HIM? HE IS THE SON OF A CHIEF.
IT IS NOT MY WISH, OTA. I HAVE OTHER --MORE ADVANTAGEOUS --PLANS FOR YOU.
AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE LAND THE OSI-WEY--

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS MAKE THIS TROUBLE BOIL TO A HEAD. THEN THEY FIGHT. THE OSI-WEY CLEAN UP ON THE LLONGO AND WE MOVE IN OUR DIAMOND FIELD.
MAY NEVER HAPPEN, SMILEY--WITH ALL THIS TALK OF THE PHANTOM'S PEACE. WHO IS THIS PHANTOM?

SMILEY APPROACHES HIS FRIEND, KYGANI, CHIEF OF THE POWERFUL AND RICH OSI-WEY TRIBE.
I TELL YOU, KYGANI, THOSE DIAMOND DEPOSITS ARE THE RICHEST I'VE EVER SEEN. WHY, YOU'D BE THE RICHEST CHIEF OF THE ORIENT!
YOU FORGET, MY FRIEND, THAT THOSE LANDS BELONG TO THE LLONGO.
POSSESSION IS NINE-TENTHS OF THE LAW, CHIEF.
YOU PROPOSE WAR, EH? NO, THAT CAN NEVER BE. WE CANNOT BREAK THE PHANTOM'S PEACE.
ALL I HEAR IS PHANTOM, PHANTOM! WHO IS HE--OR WHAT IS HE?
HE IS A MAN, OR PERHAPS, A GOD. HE HAS LIVED FOR CENTURIES. HE IS WISE, AND POWERFUL AND KIND--BUT DEADLY WHEN HIS WILL IS CROSSED. HE GIVES US THE LAW AND THE PEACE!
WELL, HOW DID YOU DO, SMILEY?
AW, THESE FATHEADS. SCARED OF A SHADOW--A SUPERSTITION! HILL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND ME HAVE GOTTA ENGINEER THIS LITTLE WAR, OURSELVES.
TOMORROW—SMILEY'S SCHEME

WHAT'S YOUR IDEA, SMILEY?
IT GOES LIKE THIS. YOU KNOW THAT KULA OF THE LLONGO LOVES OTA, DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF THE OSI-WEY. WELL, YOU AND ME ARE GONNA KIDNAP OTA!
WE GRAB HER AT NIGHT, KEEP HER HEAD COVERED SO SHE DON'T SEE US. WE LEAVE A LLONGO HEADDRESS IN HER HUT. THE OSI-WEY WILL THINK KULA SWIPED THE GAL. THAT STARTS THE FIRE-WORKS!
WE KEEP THE GAL, OTA, HIDDEN. THEN, AFTER THE OSI-WEY CLEAN OUT THE LLONGO, WHICH IS A CINCH, WE PRODUCE OTA. SAYIN' WE RESCUED HER. HER OLD MAN FALLS IN OUR ARMS--AND WE GET THE DIAMOND FIELD!
BUT HOW ABOUT THIS PHANTOM PEACE STUFF? WHAT IS THE PHANTOM?
A BOGEYMAN, A SUPERSTITION! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I CAN HANDLE THESE NATIVES. HILL, OLD BOY, I CAN FEEL THOSE DIAMONDS ALREADY!
NEXT WEEK—THE RETURN OF THE PHANTOM.

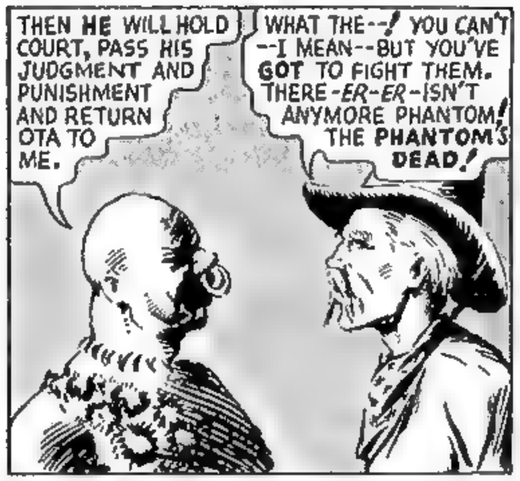
SMILEY PLANS TO FORCE THE OSI-WEY AND LLONGO TRIBES INTO WAR, BY KIDNAPPING OTA, DAUGHTER OF THE OSI-WEY CHIEF.
GEE, SMILEY, YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US IF WE MUFF THIS KIDNAPPING!
DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU. JUST KEEP THINKING ABOUT THOSE LLONGO HILLS, FULL OF DIAMONDS.
SH--SOUND ASLEEP. I'LL GET THE GAG ON HER FIRST. YOU GRAB HER HANDS. THEN THE SACK.
NEAT AS CLOCK-WORK. SHE WASN'T ABLE TO LET OUT A PEEP.
YEH. WE'LL SNEAK HER OUT THE REAR GATE. DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE THAT LLONGO HEAD-DRESS ON THE FLOOR.
A LLONGO HEAD-DRESS IS LEFT BEHIND AND THE FIRST PART OF SMILEY'S PLAN IS COMPLETED!

SMILEY AND HILL HAVE KIDNAPPED OTA, LEAVING A LLONGO HEAD-DRESS ON THE FLOOR OF HER HUT.
OTA--OTA--GONE! OH--A LLONGO HEAD-DRESS! SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED! KIDNAPPED!
THE LLONGO DARED KIDNAP OUR PRINCESS OTA! IT MEANS WAR!
KULA DID IT! WAR!
REMEMBER THE PHANTOM'S PEACE! I WILL SEND A MESSAGE TO THE LLONGO TRIBE.
THE OSI-WEY SAY WE HAVE KIDNAPPED OTA. A HEAD-DRESS WAS FOUND IN HER HUT!
THEY DARE ACCUSE US! THE MEN OF LLONGO DO NOT STEAL! AND THEY SUSPECT ME! ME WHO LOVES OTA!
I MUST GO TO KYGANI, HER FATHER AND PLEAD MY INNOCENCE. I MUST HELP HIM TO FIND HER.
NO, KULA MY SON. NOT NOW. YOU DARE NOT. YOU MUST WAIT. WAIT.
tomorrow—SMILEY'S LAST MOVE

WHAT WORD DO YOU BRING FROM THE LLONGO, MESSENGER?
THEY DENY THE KIDNAPPING OF YOUR DAUGHTER OTA, GREAT KYGANI, THE CHIEF'S SON, KULA, DENIES ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEED.

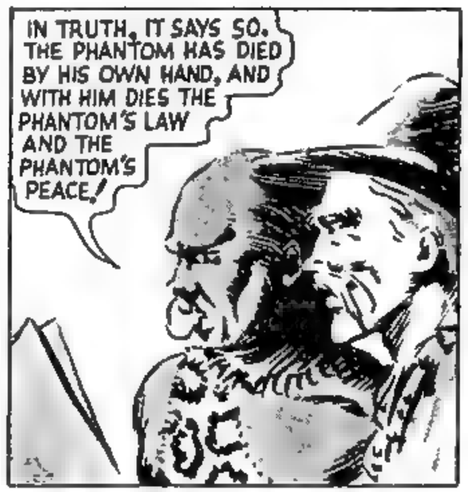
WHAT'LL I DO IF ANY NATIVES COME BY HERE, SMILEY?
THEY NEVER COME NEAR THIS SWAMP. DON'T LET HER SEE YOU. SLIP HER FOOD AND WATER UNDER THE DOOR. I'M OFF TO SEE HER FATHER NOW.
IN THE DEEP SWAMP, WHERE SMILEY AND HILL HAVE OTA IMPRISONED.

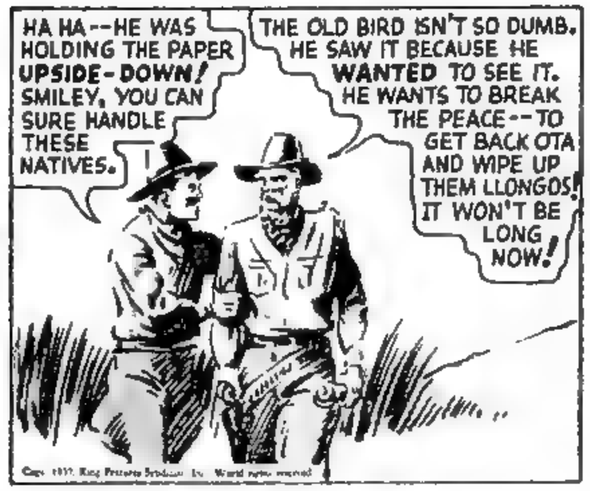
I HEARD ABOUT THE LLONGO STEALING YOUR DAUGHTER. GUESS THAT KULA DID IT. THIS IS WAR, EH?
NO, SMILEY. NOT WAR! WE CANNOT BREAK THE PHANTOM'S PEACE. NEWS OF THIS WILL REACH HIM, SWIFT AS AN ARROW!
4-21


THEN HE WILL HOLD COURT, PASS HIS JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT AND RETURN OTA TO ME.
WHAT THE--! YOU CAN'T --I MEAN--BUT YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT THEM. THERE-ER-ER-ISN'T ANYMORE PHANTOM! THE PHANTOM'S DEAD!

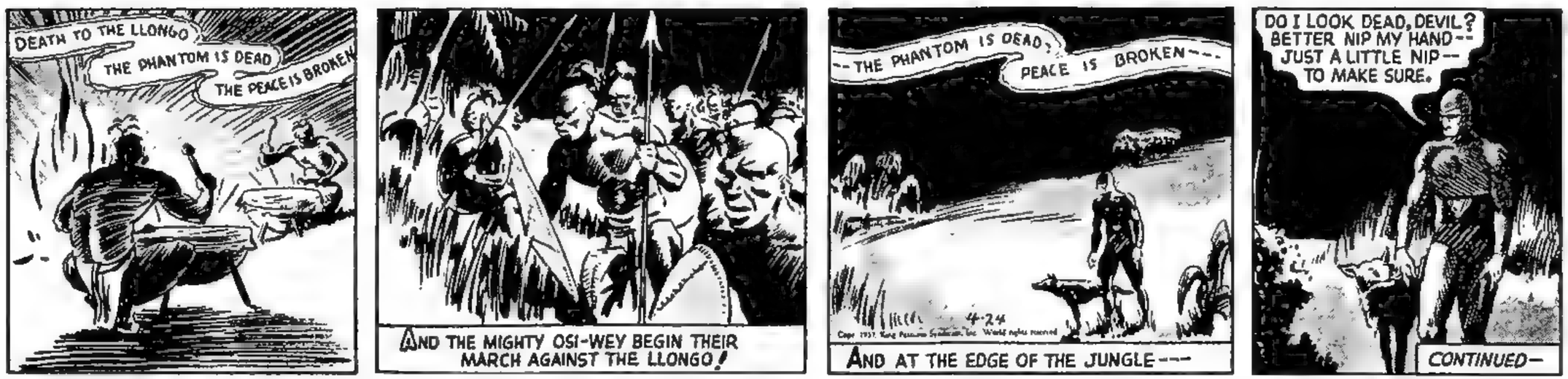
PHANTOM DEAD? CHILD'S TALK, FOOL! THE PHANTOM CANNOT DIE. THE PHANTOM CAN NEVER DIE!
IT'S THE TRUTH, CHIEF KYGANI, I JUST-ER-READ ABOUT IT. DIED BY HIS OWN HAND. SAID HIS TIME ON THIS EARTH HAD COME TO AN END!

SEE FOR YOURSELF. IT'S RIGHT THERE, IN THE WHITE MAN'S NEWSPAPER-- IN PRINT! NOTHING EVER APPEARS IN PRINT UNLESS IT'S TRUE!
LET ME SEE THIS PRINT WITH MY OWN EYES.
4-22


IN TRUTH, IT SAYS SO. THE PHANTOM HAS DIED BY HIS OWN HAND, AND WITH HIM DIES THE PHANTOM'S LAW AND THE PHANTOM'S PEACE!


HA HA--HE WAS HOLDING THE PAPER UPSIDE-DOWN! SMILEY, YOU CAN SURE HANDLE THESE NATIVES.
THE OLD BIRD ISN'T SO DUMB. HE SAW IT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SEE IT. HE WANTS TO BREAK THE PEACE--TO GET BACK OTA AND WIPE UP THEM LLONGOS! IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!

WANTING DIAMOND FIELDS IN LLONGO TERRITORY, SMILEY TRICKS THE POWERFUL AND FRIENDLY OSI-WEY TRIBE INTO DECLARING WAR AGAINST THE LLONGO.
--THE PHANTOM IS DEAD
THE JUNGLE PEACE IS BROKEN--
AND THE OSI-WEY GO INTO THEIR WAR-DANCE.
--PEACE IS BROKEN--
HEAR THAT, SMILEY? OSI-WEY WAR DANCE.
THE PEACE IS DEAD, THE PHANTOM'S DEAD, FATHER! NOW WE FIGHT -- AND I SHALL FIND OTA!
EASY, MY SON. WE LLONGO ARE WEAK AGAINST THE POWERFUL OSI-WEY. WE NEED ALLIES. WE SHALL GET THEM!
4-23
Tomorrow--"DO I LOOK DEAD?"


DEATH TO THE LLONGO
THE PHANTOM IS DEAD
THE PEACE IS BROKEN
AND THE MIGHTY OSI-WEY BEGIN THEIR MARCH AGAINST THE LLONGO!
--THE PHANTOM IS DEAD;
PEACE IS BROKEN---
4-24
AND AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE---
DO I LOOK DEAD, DEVIL? BETTER NIP MY HAND-- JUST A LITTLE NIP-- TO MAKE SURE.
CONTINUED—

CAPTAIN HORTON, THE JUNGLE'S IN A TUMULT! THE OSI-WEY ARE ADVANCING ON THE LLONGO, AND WILL ANNIHILATE THEM! YET WE HAVEN'T THE MAN-POWER TO STOP THEM! WE NEED THOUSANDS! WHAT CAN WE DO?

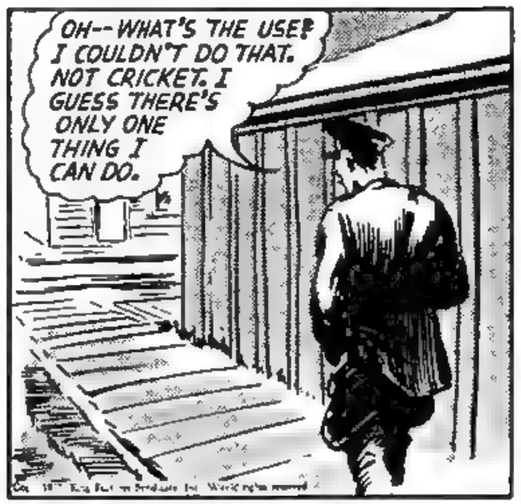
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, SIR! YOU TAKE IT ALL-- SO CALMLY!
THERE'S NOTHING FOR US TO DO. ONLY ONE MAN CAN STOP THEM! HE SHOULD HAVE REACHED THE JUNGLE BY NOW.

IT'S ALL SO-- UNEXPECTED! WHY--THERE'S NEVER BEEN WAR IN THESE JUNGLES--NOT FOR CENTURIES!
THE PEACE WAS BROKEN-- BECAUSE THE ONLY MAN WHO COULD ENFORCE IT, WAS GONE. BUT NOW HE'S RETURNED! WE'LL WAIT AND SEE.

AND IN THE DARK, UNTRAVELED DEPTHS, THE RULER OF THE JUNGLE RETURNS--UNHERALDED, UNEXPECTED! THE PHANTOM!

STRANGE MIX-UP I'VE GOTTEN INTO. THE ONLY WOMAN I'VE EVER LOVED--AND SHE'S IN LOVE WITH THE PHANTOM. AND THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT-- HE LOVES HER. ASKED HER TO MARRY HIM.

YET SHE THINKS HE'S DEAD. I COULD TAKE A PLANE AND CATCH UP WITH HER AT PORT SAID! WE COULD BE MARRIED! I'M CERTAIN SHE'S FOND OF ME! SHE'D LEARN TO LOVE ME.


OH--WHAT'S THE USE? I COULDN'T DO THAT. NOT CRICKET. I GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO.

YES, CAPTAIN HORTON?
I WANT TO SEND A CABLE TO DIANA PALMER. CARE THE CITY OF PARIS, AT PORT SAID. JUST SAY --THE PHANTOM IS ALIVE AND WELL. SIGN MY NAME.
tomorrow-- DIANA

AT PORT SAID, DIANA PALMER, WHO IS THE ONLY WOMAN THE PHANTOM HAS EVER LOVED, RECEIVES HORTON'S MESSAGE.
HE'S ALIVE--ALIVE!
CAPTAIN DUFRAIS, I'VE JUST RECEIVED--IMPORTANT NEWS! I MUST CHARTER A PLANE BACK TO ADEN AT ONCE, SO I CAN CATCH THE FIRST STEAMER TO BOMBAY.
SO SORRY, MAD'MOISELLE. NO FACILITIES HERE. IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT CAPTAIN, I--I'VE JUST HAD A CABLE THAT HE'S ALIVE--ALIVE! I MUST GO TO HIM AT ONCE!
YOUR HUSBAND? SO SORRY, MISS PALMER. I SHOULD LIKE TO HELP. I CAN DO NOZZING.
BUT--BUT HE'S NOT MY HUSBAND!
OH-HO--NOT YOUR HUSBAND. ZE SWEETHEART, EH? ZAT IS DIFFERENT! BUT, OF COURSE, I CAN HELP YOU, MAD'MOISELLE!
4-28

OTA, DAUGHTER OF KYGANI, THE OSI-WEY CHIEF, AND INNOCENT CAUSE OF THE JUNGLE WAR, DOES NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF HER CAPTORS.
SMILEY, I'M GETTING SORTA LEERY OF THIS. YOU KNOW WHAT'D HAPPEN TO US, IF THEY FOUND OUT YOU AND ME KIDNAPED THE GIRL.
BUT THEY DON'T --AND THEY WON'T, SO FORGET IT.
BUT--HOW ABOUT THIS PHANTOM? MAYBE THERE IS SUCH A PERSON-OR THING. HE--OR--IT MAY COME BACK.
SAY, IS THIS JUNGLE HEAT GETTING YOU DOWN? SNAP OUT OF IT. WE'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR MARBLES, YOU KNOW!
WHEN THE OSI-WEY DRIVE OUT THE LLONGO, WE GET THE LLONGO DIAMOND FIELDS. THAT'S WORTH A LITTLE TROUBLE, AIN'T IT? JUST THINK ABOUT PARIS, AND LONDON AND NEW YORK--WITH OUR POCKETS STUFFED WITH DIAMONDS!
4-29

THE WAR IS ON, AS THE OSI-WEY, BY REASON OF THEIR SUPERIOR NUMBERS---

STEADILY AND CONSISTENTLY DRIVE BACK AND OVER-WHELM THE LLONGO!

WE WAIT FOR THE FULL MOON, THEN BEGIN OUR FINAL ATTACK! EVERY MALE LLONGO MUST BE KILLED, UNLESS THEY SURRENDER AND RETURN MY DAUGHTER OTA TO ME!
430

WE CAN'T STAND AGAINST THEM, FATHER. WE CAN'T GIVE UP OTA, BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T GOT HER!
KULA, YOU MUST GO TO THE HILL TRIBES, THE DJARLING AND WATHACTI. THEY WILL FIGHT WITH US! THEN KYGANI AND HIS OSI-WEY WILL CRAWL BEFORE US!
tomorrow- THE PIGMY POISON PEOPLE

WHILE WAR WAGES IN THE JUNGLE, IN A REMOTE SECTION, THE BANDAR, THE PIGMY POISON PEOPLE BEWAIL THE LOSS OF THEIR HEREDITARY PROTECTOR --THE PHANTOM.
THE PHANTOM IS GONE. THE PHANTOM HAS LEFT THE BANDAR.
5-1

THE JUNGLE PEACE IS BROKEN. THE PHANTOM IS GONE, BUT THE BANDAR WILL EVER REMEMBER HIS LAWS -- IF NONE ELSE WILL.

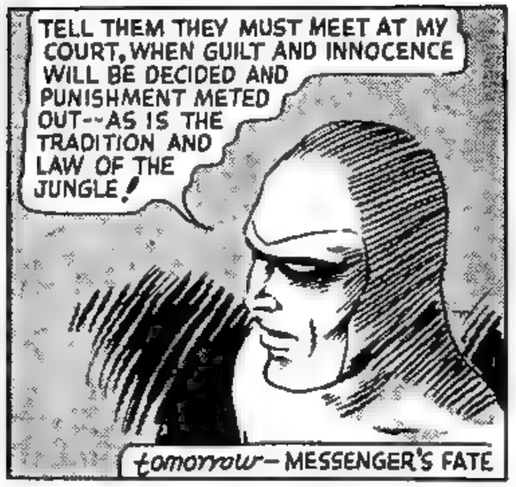
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, DEVIL? I ALWAYS TOLD YOU GURAN WAS A NICE LITTLE MAN—AND IT ISN'T EVERY MAN WHO CAN WATCH HIS OWN FUNERAL RITES.

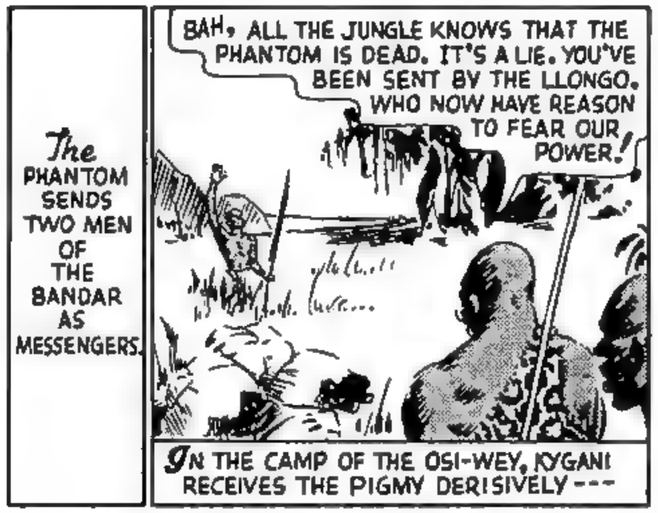
GURAN, CEASE LAMENTATIONS. I HAVE RETURNED TO MY BANDAR!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
Next Week- THE GHOST GETS BUSY.

THAT MAN! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WAS ALIVE. I'M GOING TO SEE HIM AGAIN! SEE HIM! IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE!
WHILE DIANA BEGINS HER LONG SEA JOURNEY BACK TO THE PHANTOM---

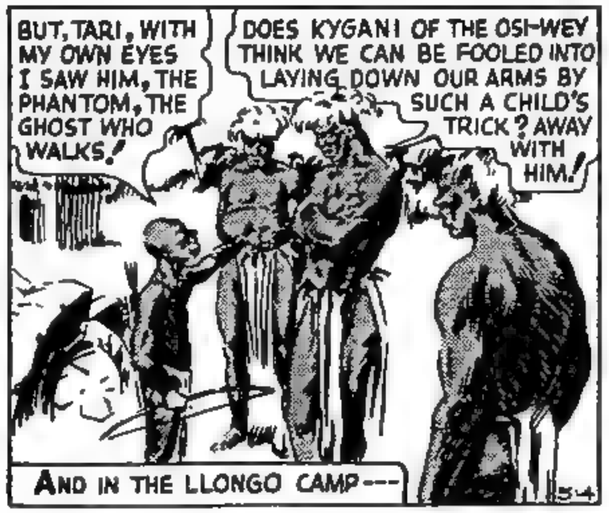
I'M PROUD THAT MY BANDAR HAVE NOT ENTERED THE FIGHTING. SO THE KIDNAPPING OF OTA IS WHAT STARTED IT, GURAN?
IT IS. AND THE PEOPLE OF THE JUNGLE HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR LAW AND FIGHT LIKE WILD BEASTS.

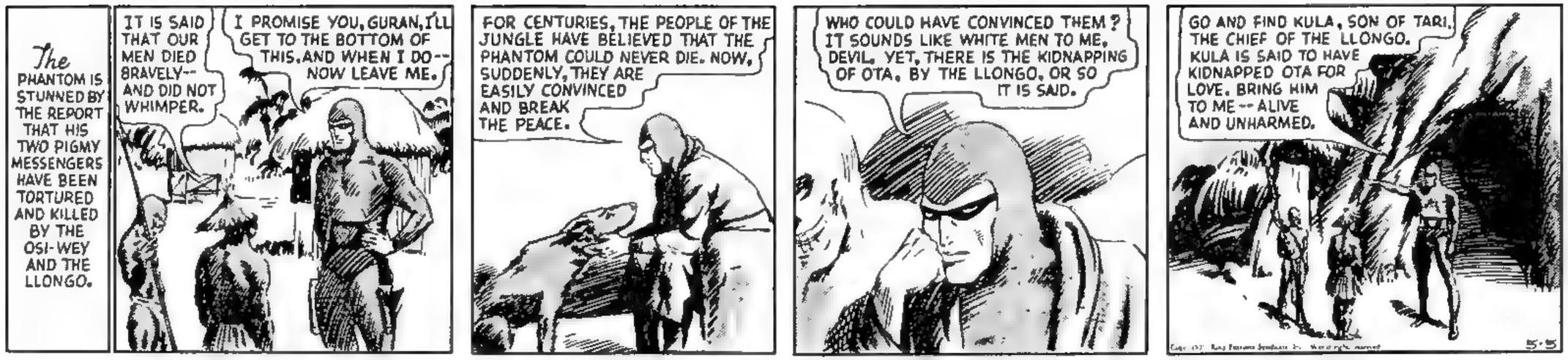
SEND TWO MESSENGERS, ONE TO THE OSI-WEY, ONE TO THE LLONGO. TELL THEM THE PHANTOM IS NOT DEAD, THAT HE HAS RETURNED AND WITH HIM THE JUNGLE PEACE.
5-3

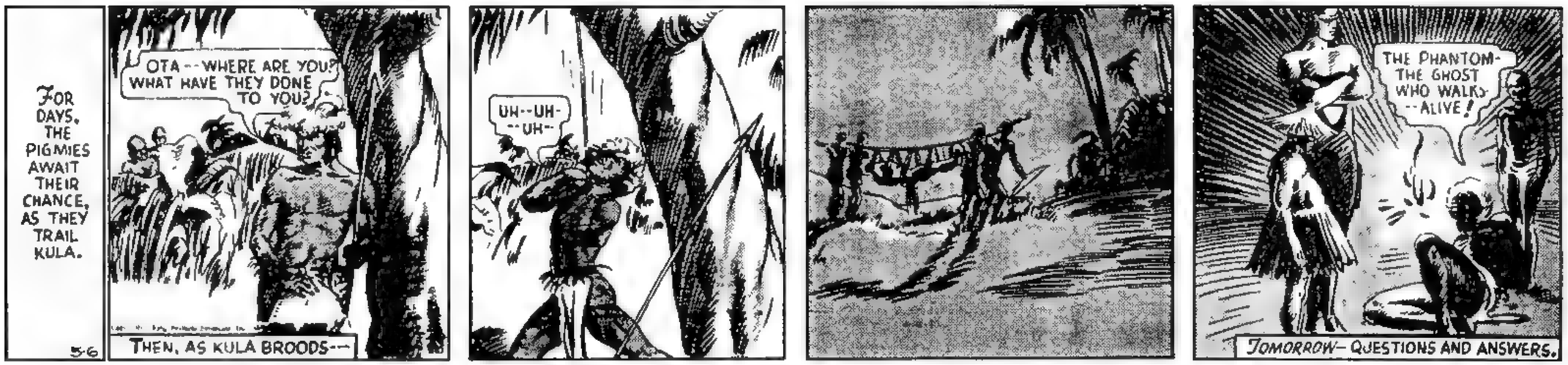

TELL THEM THEY MUST MEET AT MY COURT, WHEN GUILT AND INNOCENCE WILL BE DECIDED AND PUNISHMENT METED OUT--AS IS THE TRADITION AND LAW OF THE JUNGLE!
tomorrow—MESSENGER'S FATE


The PHANTOM SENDS TWO MEN OF THE BANDAR AS MESSENGERS.
BAH, ALL THE JUNGLE KNOWS THAT THE PHANTOM IS DEAD. IT'S A LIE. YOU'VE BEEN SENT BY THE LLONGO, WHO NOW HAVE REASON TO FEAR OUR POWER!
IN THE CAMP OF THE OSI-WEY, KYGANI RECEIVES THE PIGMY DERISIVELY---

AND THE OSI-WEY DEAL QUICKLY WITH THE MESSENGER!

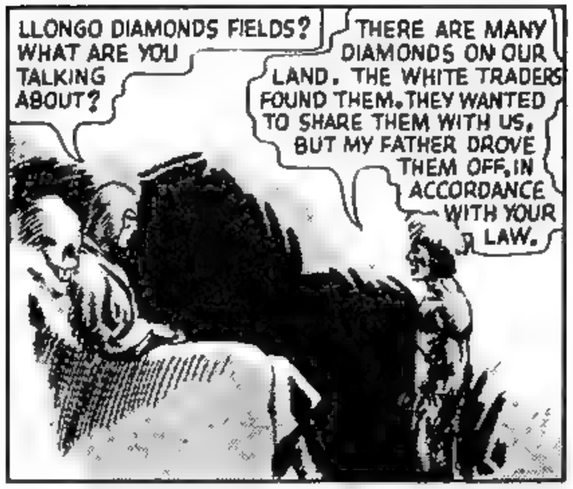

BUT, TARI, WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW HIM, THE PHANTOM, THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
DOES KYGANI OF THE OSI-WEY THINK WE CAN BE FOOLED INTO LAYING DOWN OUR ARMS BY SUCH A CHILD'S TRICK? AWAY WITH HIM!
AND IN THE LLONGO CAMP---
5-4


The PHANTOM IS STUNNED BY THE REPORT THAT HIS TWO PIGMY MESSENGERS HAVE BEEN TORTURED AND KILLED BY THE OSI-WEY AND THE LLONGO.
IT IS SAID THAT OUR MEN DIED BRAVELY-- AND DID NOT WHIMPER.
I PROMISE YOU, GURAN, I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. AND WHEN I DO-- NOW LEAVE ME.
FOR CENTURIES, THE PEOPLE OF THE JUNGLE HAVE BELIEVED THAT THE PHANTOM COULD NEVER DIE. NOW, SUDDENLY, THEY ARE EASILY CONVINCED AND BREAK THE PEACE.
WHO COULD HAVE CONVINCED THEM? IT SOUNDS LIKE WHITE MEN TO ME, DEVIL. YET, THERE IS THE KIDNAPPING OF OTA, BY THE LLONGO, OR SO IT IS SAID.
GO AND FIND KULA, SON OF TARI, THE CHIEF OF THE LLONGO. KULA IS SAID TO HAVE KIDNAPPED OTA FOR LOVE. BRING HIM TO ME -- ALIVE AND UNHARMED.
5-5


FOR DAYS, THE PIGMIES AWAIT THEIR CHANCE, AS THEY TRAIL KULA.
OTA -- WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
THEN, AS KULA BROODS---
5-6
UH--UH- --UH--
THE PHANTOM- THE GHOST WHO WALKS --ALIVE!
TOMORROW— QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NOW, KULA, YOU LOVED OTA, AND HER FATHER DID NOT APPROVE. DID YOU KIDNAP HER? DON'T LIE.
I HAVE NOT LIED! OTA IS IN THE VILLAGE OF HER FATHER. IT WAS A RUSE OF THE OSI-WEY --SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE REASON TO WAR AGAINST US.

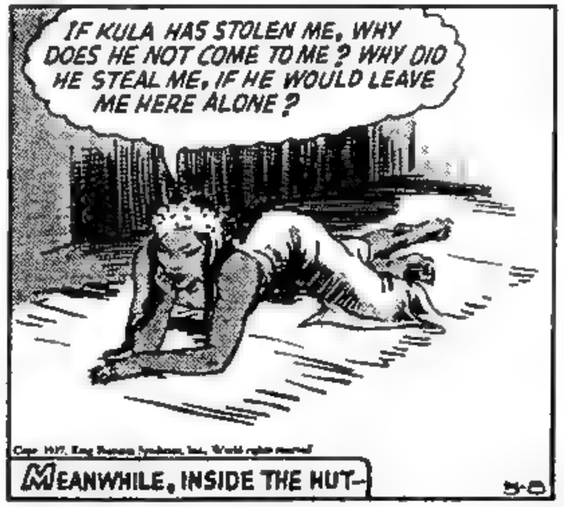
NOW, KULA, WHY SHOULD THEY WANT TO FIGHT YOU? THEY ARE A RICH TRIBE. YOU ARE A POOR ONE.
THEY WANT OUR DIAMOND LANDS! THEY WOULD DRIVE US AWAY SO THEY CAN HAVE THE LLONGO DIAMOND FIELDS FOR THEMSELVES!


LLONGO DIAMONDS FIELDS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE ARE MANY DIAMONDS ON OUR LAND. THE WHITE TRADERS FOUND THEM. THEY WANTED TO SHARE THEM WITH US, BUT MY FATHER DROVE THEM OFF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR LAW.

DIAMOND FIELDS! WHITE TRADERS! A-HO! THIS IS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE. TELL ME MORE!
Tomorrow— OTA

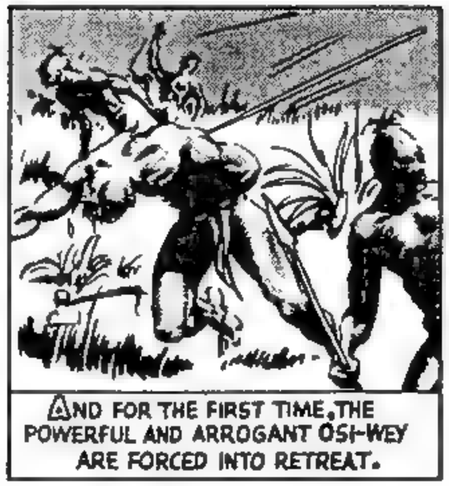
THIS THING'S GETTING ME, SMILEY. THE GIRL DOESN'T KNOW WE KIDNAPPED HER. I'M ALL FOR BEATING IT NOW-- AND LEAVING HER HERE.
ARE YOU CRAZY?

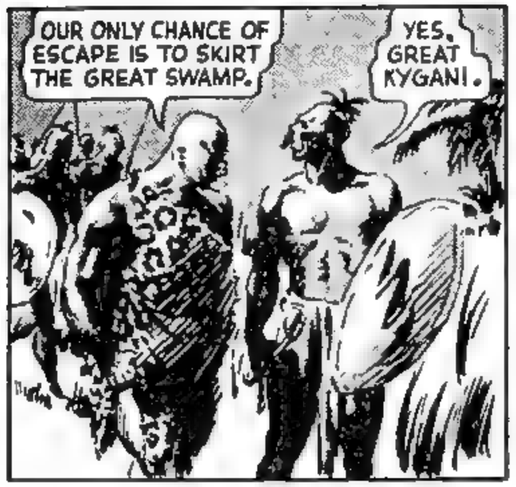
JUST WHEN EVERYTHING'S WORKING OUT OKAY, YOU TURN YELLOW AND WANT TO BLOW. LISTEN, HILL, YOU'RE STICKING! WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER! DO YOU GET IT?


IF KULA HAS STOLEN ME, WHY DOES HE NOT COME TO ME? WHY DID HE STEAL ME, IF HE WOULD LEAVE ME HERE ALONE?
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HUT—

I CAN HEAR THEM TALKING. WHITE MAN'S TALK! THEN, IT WAS NOT KULA WHO STOLE ME!
NEXT WEEK— CLOSE SHAVE

THE WAR IN THE JUNGLE TAKES A SUDDEN TURN WHEN--
THE HILL TRIBES, THE DJARLING AND THE WATHACTI, JOIN FORCES WITH THE BATTERED LLONGO---


AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE POWERFUL AND ARROGANT OSI-WEY ARE FORCED INTO RETREAT.


OUR ONLY CHANCE OF ESCAPE IS TO SKIRT THE GREAT SWAMP.
YES, GREAT KYGANI.

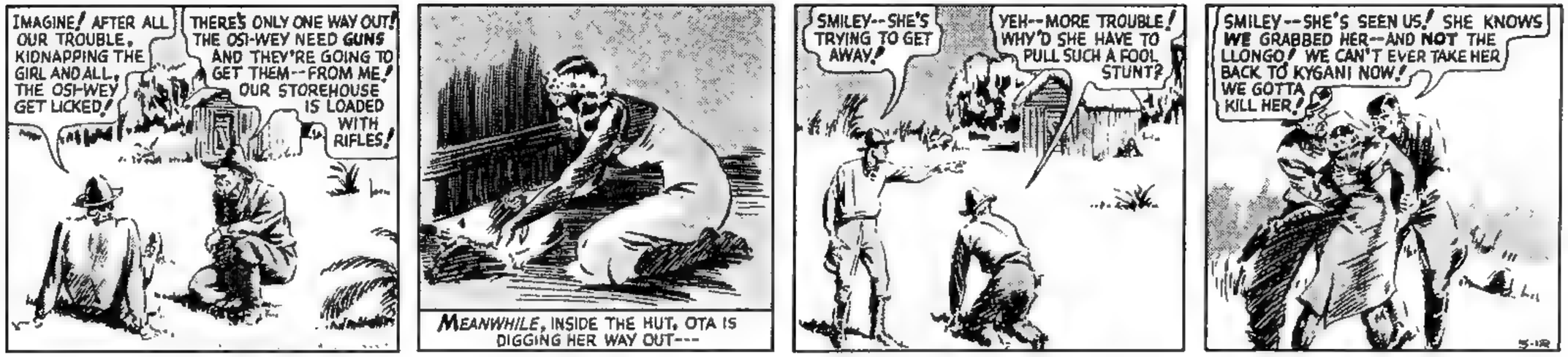
SMILEY! LOOK! IT'S KYGANI -- AND HIS OSI-WEY--COMING THIS WAY! AND WE GOT KYGANI'S KID INSIDE THE HUT-- AND--
SHUT UP! WE GOTTA PUT UP A BOLD FRONT. AND IF YOU TURN YELLOW--!
5-10

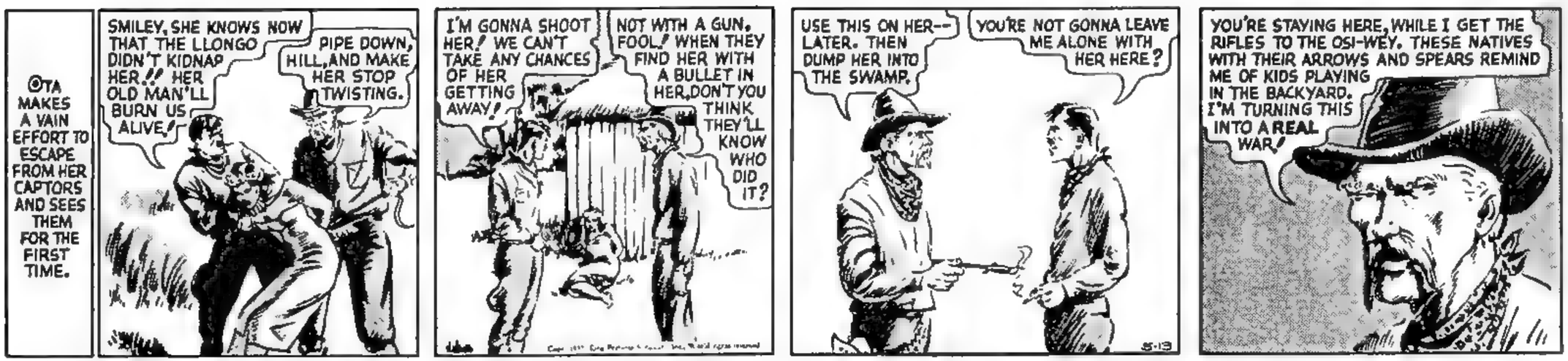
KYGANI, HIGH CHIEF OF THE OSI-WEY, DOES NOT KNOW THAT HIS DAUGHTER IS HELD CAPTIVE BY SMILEY AND HILL.

THE LLONGO HAVE BROUGHT THE HILL TRIBES AGAINST US! WE ARE OUT-NUMBERED MANY TIMES.
YOU MEAN, THE OSI-WEY ARE LICKED? KYGANI--YOU CAN'T DO THIS! I MEAN--THINK OF THE HONOR OF YOUR TRIBE!

EVEN THE LION AND THE TIGER RETREAT BEFORE A BUFFALO HERD. MARCH ON!
5-11

WHEW! IF KYGANI HAD LOOKED IN OUR HUT AND SEEN OTA, WE'D BE MINCE MEAT BY NOW!
YEH, IT WAS A CLOSE ONE. NOW STOP WHINING AND LET ME THINK. I GOTTA FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, QUICK!
tomorrow-- THE UNEXPECTED.


IMAGINE! AFTER ALL OUR TROUBLE, KIDNAPPING THE GIRL AND ALL, THE OSI-WEY GET LICKED!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT! THE OSI-WEY NEED GUNS AND THEY'RE GOING TO GET THEM--FROM ME! OUR STOREHOUSE IS LOADED WITH RIFLES!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HUT, OTA IS DIGGING HER WAY OUT---
SMILEY--SHE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY!
YEH--MORE TROUBLE! WHY'D SHE HAVE TO PULL SUCH A FOOL STUNT?
SMILEY--SHE'S SEEN US! SHE KNOWS WE GRABBED HER--AND NOT THE LLONGO! WE CAN'T EVER TAKE HER BACK TO KYGANI NOW! WE GOTTA KILL HER!


OTA MAKES A VAIN EFFORT TO ESCAPE FROM HER CAPTORS AND SEES THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.
SMILEY, SHE KNOWS NOW THAT THE LLONGO DIDN'T KIDNAP HER!! HER OLD MAN'LL BURN US ALIVE!
PIPE DOWN, HILL, AND MAKE HER STOP TWISTING.
I'M GONNA SHOOT HER! WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES OF HER GETTING AWAY!
NOT WITH A GUN, FOOL! WHEN THEY FIND HER WITH A BULLET IN HER, DON'T YOU THINK THEY'LL KNOW WHO DID IT?
USE THIS ON HER--LATER. THEN DUMP HER INTO THE SWAMP.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA LEAVE ME ALONE WITH HER HERE?
YOU'RE STAYING HERE, WHILE I GET THE RIFLES TO THE OSI-WEY. THESE NATIVES WITH THEIR ARROWS AND SPEARS REMIND ME OF KIDS PLAYING IN THE BACKYARD. I'M TURNING THIS INTO A REAL WAR!

I'M GIVING THESE RIFLES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO THE OSI-WEY, KYGANI. IN RETURN, I WANT THE DIAMOND FIELDS OF THE LLONGO LAND--WHEN YOU WIN.
OUR HONOR IS SAVED. IT SHALL BE DONE.

AND TWO DAYS LATER, WHEN THE LLONGO BRING THEIR ATTACK INTO OSI-WEY COUNTRY---

RIFLES! WELL, DEVIL, I CAN BE POSITIVE NOW THAT WHITE MEN STARTED THIS TROUBLE!
QUICKLY, THE NATIVE GRAPE-VINE BRINGS THE NEWS---RIFLES IN THE JUNGLE!

THE FIRST THING WE'VE GOT TO DO, DEVIL, IS FIND THE GIRL, OTA. OTHERWISE, I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN STOP A JUNGLE MASSACRE! WHEN I LEARN WHO BROUGHT THOSE RIFLES IN---!

EASY ENOUGH FOR SMILEY TO MARCH OFF AND LEAVE ME WATCHING THE GIRL. WHAT IF HE DOUBLE-CROSSES ME?- TELLS KYGANI I KIDNAPPED THE GIRL?

N-NAW--HE WOULDN'T DO THAT. BUT-BUT IF ANY NATIVE SHOULD COME ALONG--AND SEE HER HERE--
--NO--NO--I GOTTA KILL HER!

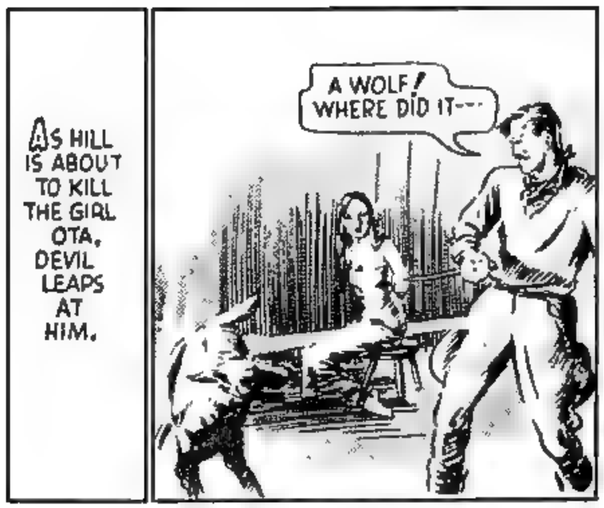
I--I GOTTA---
CONTINUED—

AS HILL IS ABOUT TO KILL OTA,- BEING AFRAID THAT HE WILL BE DISCOVERED AS ONE OF HER ABDUCTORS---
STRANGE. I WONDER WHO LIVES THERE. DEVIL. THIS IS RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP--AND IT'S TABOO TO THE NATIVES.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S DESERTED. WE HAVEN'T TIME TO PAY ANY VISITS. COME ON, DEVIL. WHAT'S THE MATTER? WANT TO INVESTIGATE?

I-I-GOTTA-- KILL--YOU
5 17

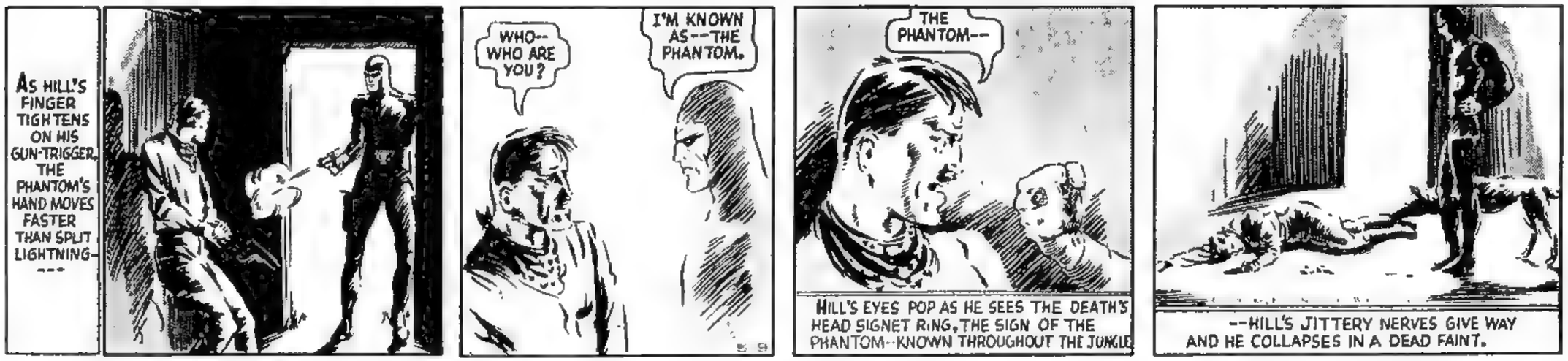
WHAT TH--!
WHEN SUDDENLY, FROM THE DOOR ---

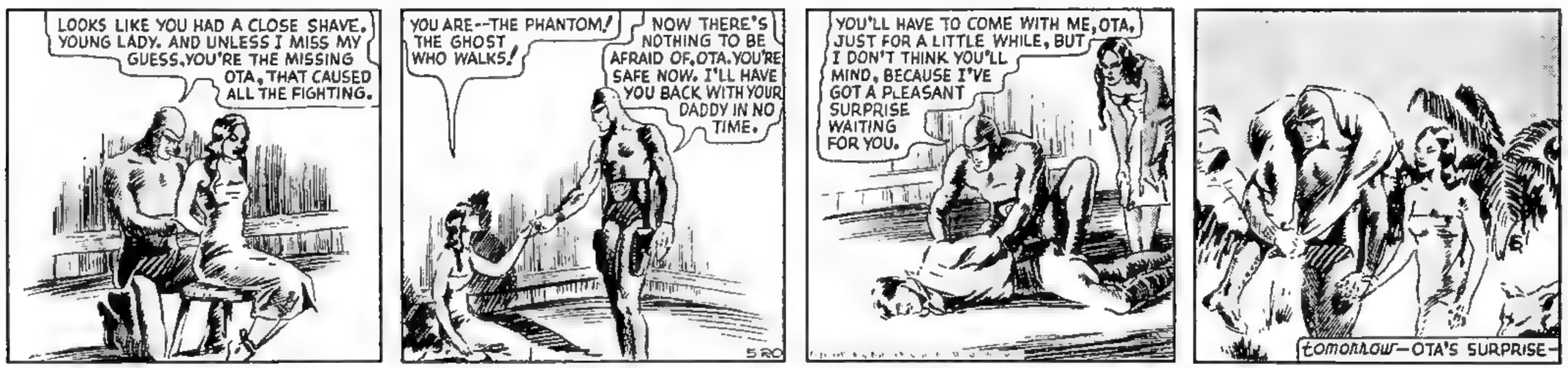

AS HILL IS ABOUT TO KILL THE GIRL OTA, DEVIL LEAPS AT HIM.
A WOLF! WHERE DID IT---

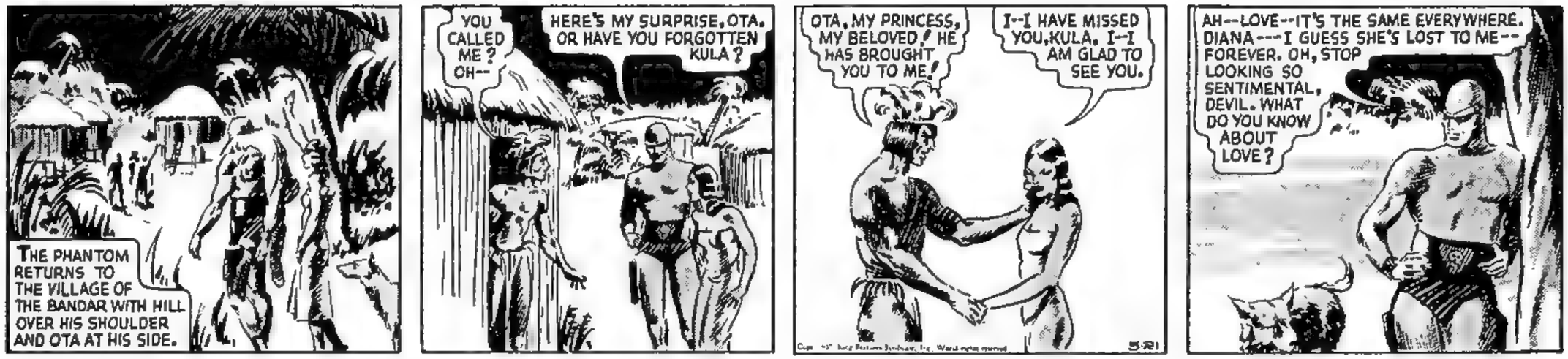
WHO--WHO ARE YOU? CALL THIS--THIS ANIMAL OFF!
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!

HILL INSTANTLY HURLS HIS KNIFE AT THE STRANGE FIGURE---

I--DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE--OR WHAT YOU WANT--BUT I CAN SEE YOU'RE HERE FOR NO GOOD! SO---
5 18
AND HIS FINGER TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER--


AS HILL'S FINGER TIGHTENS ON HIS GUN-TRIGGER, THE PHANTOM'S HAND MOVES FASTER THAN SPLIT LIGHTNING---
WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
I'M KNOWN AS--THE PHANTOM.
THE PHANTOM--
HILL'S EYES POP AS HE SEES THE DEATH'S HEAD SIGNET RING, THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM--KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLE
--HILL'S JITTERY NERVES GIVE WAY AND HE COLLAPSES IN A DEAD FAINT.

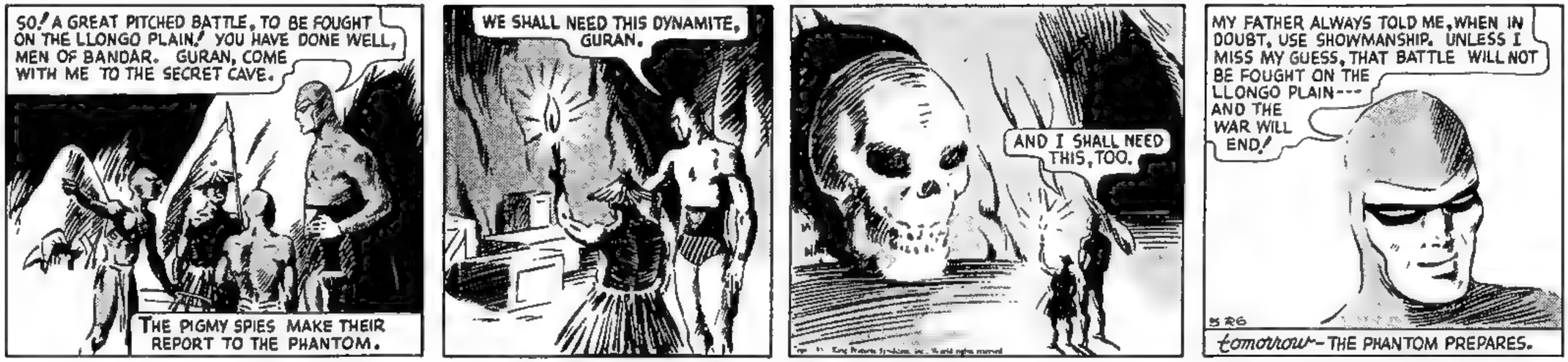

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD A CLOSE SHAVE, YOUNG LADY. AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, YOU'RE THE MISSING OTA, THAT CAUSED ALL THE FIGHTING.
YOU ARE--THE PHANTOM! THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, OTA. YOU'RE SAFE NOW. I'LL HAVE YOU BACK WITH YOUR DADDY IN NO TIME.
YOU'LL HAVE TO COME WITH ME, OTA, JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL MIND, BECAUSE I'VE GOT A PLEASANT SURPRISE WAITING FOR YOU.
tomorrow—OTA'S SURPRISE-

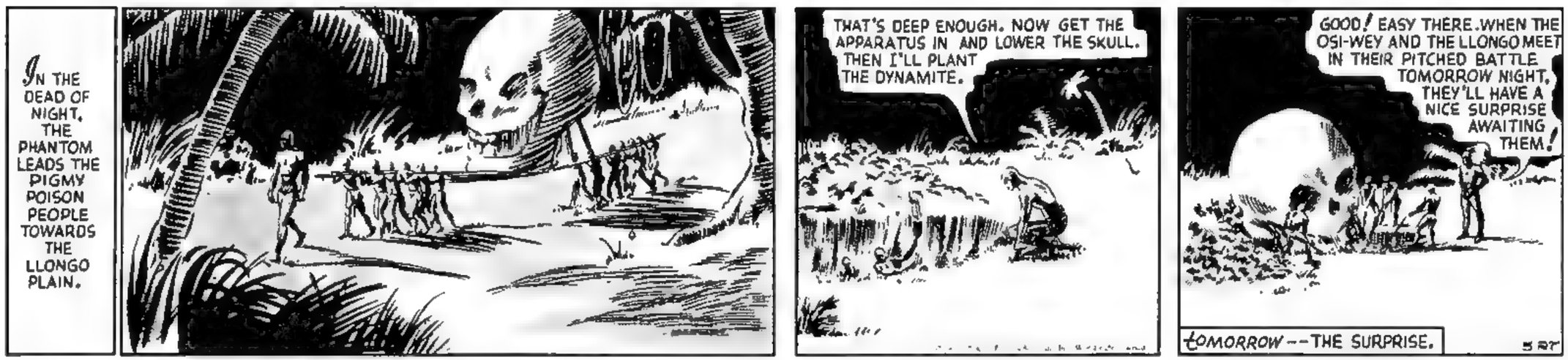

THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE VILLAGE OF THE BANDAR WITH HILL OVER HIS SHOULDER AND OTA AT HIS SIDE.
YOU CALLED ME? OH--
HERE'S MY SURPRISE, OTA. OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN KULA?
OTA, MY PRINCESS, MY BELOVED! HE HAS BROUGHT YOU TO ME!
I--I HAVE MISSED YOU, KULA. I--I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU.
AH--LOVE--IT'S THE SAME EVERYWHERE. DIANA---I GUESS SHE'S LOST TO ME--FOREVER. OH, STOP LOOKING SO SENTIMENTAL, DEVIL. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LOVE?

SEND THE MESSAGE. TELL THE JUNGLE THAT THE PHANTOM HAS RETURNED; THAT THE PHANTOM'S PEACE AND THE PHANTOM'S LAW HAVE RETURNED.
THE PHANTOM'S PEACE HAS RETURNED--
PAUGH--IT IS A LLONGO TRICK TO MAKE US LAY DOWN OUR ARMS. THE PHANTOM IS DEAD!
BUT IN THE OSI-WEY CAMP---
AN OSI-WEY TRICK--TO CATCH US UNAWARES!
AND IN THE LLONGO CAMP---
Next Week—PHANTOM'S STRATAGEM—

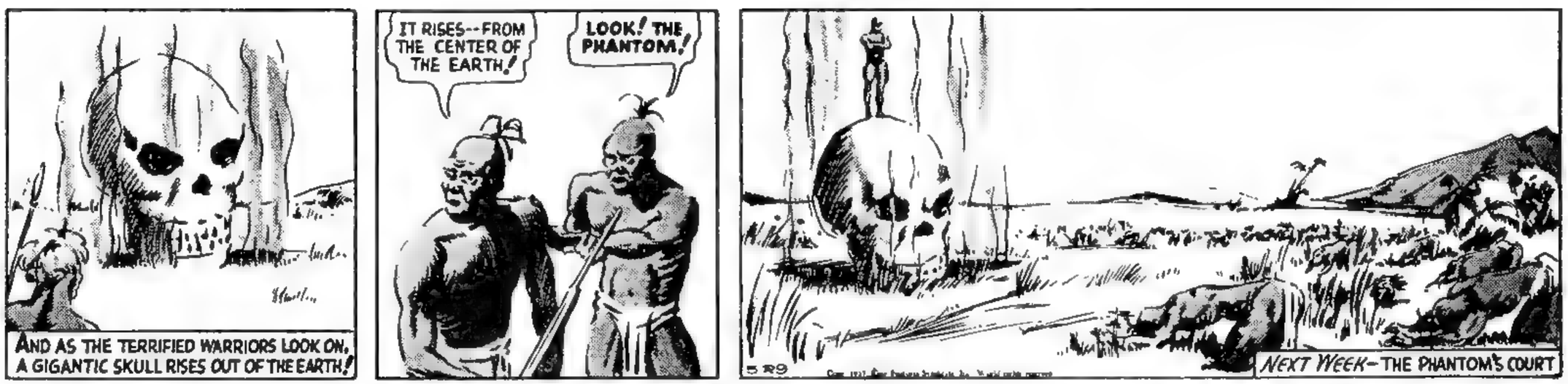
SMILEY RETURNS TO THE HUT AT THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP.
HILL, HILL! THE OSI-WEY HAVE OUR RIFLES NOW--AND THEY'RE MOPING UP ON THE LLONGO! IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!
DIDN'T TAKE THOSE FELLOWS LONG TO LEARN HOW TO SHOOT! HILL--WHERE ARE YOU--?
GONE--AND THE GIRL--OTA--SHE'S GONE, TOO! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO WAIT--DID HE RUN OUT ON ME? THE--!
FOR THE FIRST TIME SMILEY SEES THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM!
WHAT THE DEUCE! THE DEATH'S HEAD!

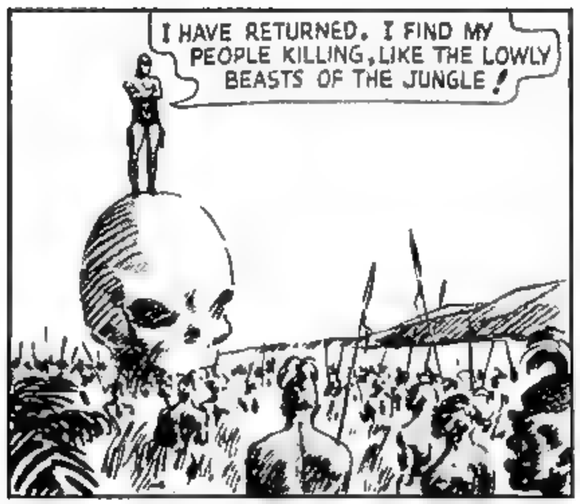
AT THE PHANTOM'S ORDER, THE PIGMY BANDAR SPY ON THE OSI-WEY CAMP---
AND ON THE LLONGO CAMP.
THE OSI-WEY AND THE LLONGO KILLED OUR MESSENGERS BY TORTURE! WE WILL AVENGE THEIR DEATH! NO ONE CAN STAND BEFORE THE POISON ARROWS OF THE BANDAR!
NO, GURAN!
MEANWHILE, IN THE PIGMY CAMP---
THE BANDAR HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAITHFUL TO THE PHANTOM. THERE IS ENOUGH KILLING. SOON OUR SPIES WILL RETURN AND I SHALL END THIS JUNGLE WAR!

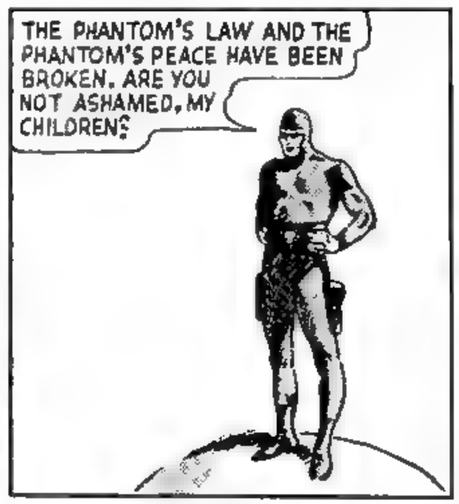

SO! A GREAT PITCHED BATTLE, TO BE FOUGHT ON THE LLONGO PLAIN! YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MEN OF BANDAR. GURAN, COME WITH ME TO THE SECRET CAVE.
THE PIGMY SPIES MAKE THEIR REPORT TO THE PHANTOM.
WE SHALL NEED THIS DYNAMITE, GURAN.
AND I SHALL NEED THIS, TOO.
MY FATHER ALWAYS TOLD ME, WHEN IN DOUBT, USE SHOWMANSHIP. UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THAT BATTLE WILL NOT BE FOUGHT ON THE LLONGO PLAIN--- AND THE WAR WILL END!
tomorrow—THE PHANTOM PREPARES.


IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, THE PHANTOM LEADS THE PIGMY POISON PEOPLE TOWARDS THE LLONGO PLAIN.
THAT'S DEEP ENOUGH. NOW GET THE APPARATUS IN AND LOWER THE SKULL. THEN I'LL PLANT THE DYNAMITE.
GOOD! EASY THERE. WHEN THE OSI-WEY AND THE LLONGO MEET IN THEIR PITCHED BATTLE TOMORROW NIGHT, THEY'LL HAVE A NICE SURPRISE AWAITING THEM!
tomorrow--THE SURPRISE.

ON THE LLONGO PLAIN, THE GREAT PITCHED BATTLE APPROACHES --- The CLIMAX OF THE JUNGLE WAR!
WE'LL WIPE OUT THE LLONGO AND THEIR ALLIES WITH OUR RIFLES! TAKE NO PRISONERS.
THE OSI-WEY CAN'T SHOOT THEIR NEW RIFLES STRAIGHT! KEEP LOW AND WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! TAKE NO PRISONERS!
AND AS SAVAGE WAR-WHOOPS HERALD THE BEGINNING OF THE FURIOUS FRAY----
THERE IS A SUDDEN TERRIFIC EXPLOSION IN THE MEADOW--BETWEEN THE TWO FORCES!
tomorrow--THE RISING SKULL!

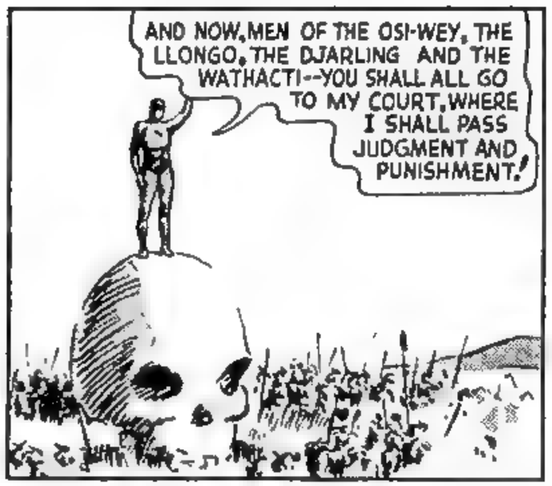

AND AS THE TERRIFIED WARRIORS LOOK ON, A GIGANTIC SKULL RISES OUT OF THE EARTH!
IT RISES--FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!
LOOK! THE PHANTOM!
NEXT WEEK--THE PHANTOM'S COURT


I HAVE RETURNED. I FIND MY PEOPLE KILLING, LIKE THE LOWLY BEASTS OF THE JUNGLE!


THE PHANTOM'S LAW AND THE PHANTOM'S PEACE HAVE BEEN BROKEN. ARE YOU NOT ASHAMED, MY CHILDREN?

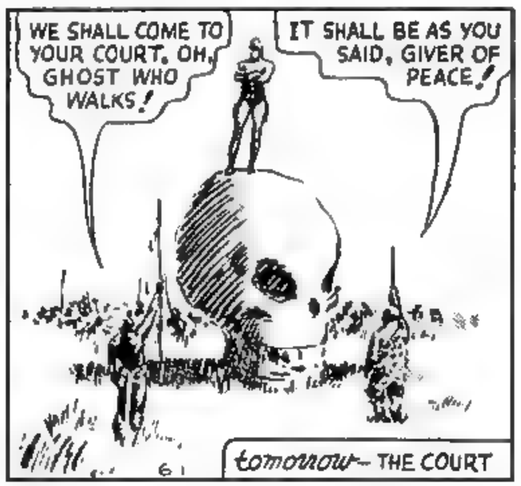
WE ARE, WE ARE. WE HAVE BROKEN THE PHANTOM'S PEACE.

DAD WAS RIGHT. A LITTLE SHOWMANSHIP IS ALWAYS HANDY IN A TIGHT SPOT!


AND NOW, MEN OF THE OSI-WEY, THE LLONGO, THE DJARLING AND THE WATHACTI--YOU SHALL ALL GO TO MY COURT, WHERE I SHALL PASS JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT!

JUDGMENT--AND PUNISHMENT?
THE WARRIORS LOOK NERVOUSLY AROUND TO SEE THAT THEY ARE SURROUNDED--

--BY THE BANDAR, THE PIGMY PEOPLE WHOSE DEADLY POISONED ARROWS ARE FEARED BY ALL JUNGLE TRIBES!

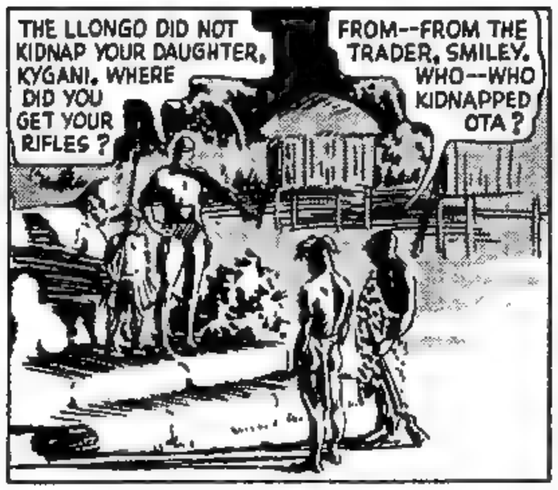

WE SHALL COME TO YOUR COURT, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS!
IT SHALL BE AS YOU SAID, GIVER OF PEACE!
tomorrow-- THE COURT

NOW--WHY WAS THE PHANTOM'S PEACE BROKEN?
I WAS TOLD THAT--THAT THE PHANTOM WAS DEAD, FOOL THAT I WAS TO BELIEVE IT! AND-- AND TARI AND THE LLONGO STOLE MY DAUGHTER, OTA!

THAT'S A LIE, KYGANI! WE HAVE NOT SEEN YOUR OTA! YOU USED HER AS AN EXCUSE TO TAKE OUR DIAMOND FIELDS!
YOU LIE, TARI! SHE IS GONE! A LLONGO HEAD-DRESS WAS FOUND IN HER HUT!

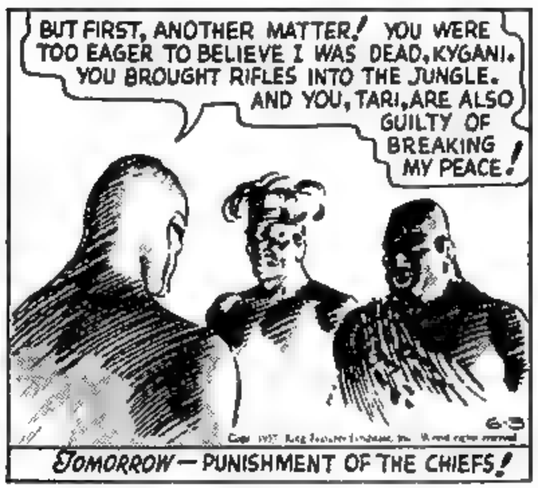
BOTH OF YOU HAVE BEEN DECEIVED. HERE IS THE MISSING OTA!

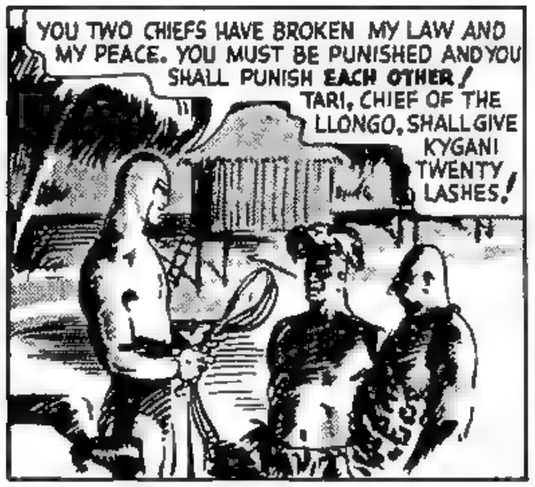
FATHER!
OTA, MY DAUGHTER!


THE LLONGO DID NOT KIDNAP YOUR DAUGHTER, KYGANI. WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR RIFLES?
FROM--FROM THE TRADER, SMILEY. WHO--WHO KIDNAPPED OTA?

THIS MAN, HILL, ALONG WITH THE MISSING SMILEY, STOLE OTA.

I'LL KILL HIM!
STOP! THIS IS MY COURT! I SHALL PASS JUDGMENT


BUT FIRST, ANOTHER MATTER! YOU WERE TOO EAGER TO BELIEVE I WAS DEAD, KYGANI. YOU BROUGHT RIFLES INTO THE JUNGLE. AND YOU, TARI, ARE ALSO GUILTY OF BREAKING MY PEACE!
TOMORROW—PUNISHMENT OF THE CHIEFS!

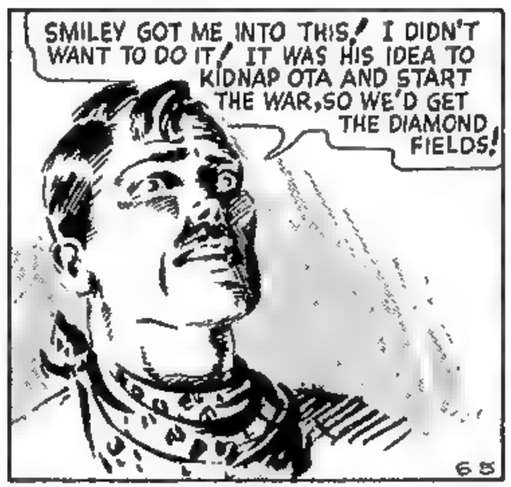

YOU TWO CHIEFS HAVE BROKEN MY LAW AND MY PEACE. YOU MUST BE PUNISHED AND YOU SHALL PUNISH EACH OTHER!
TARI, CHIEF OF THE LLONGO, SHALL GIVE KYGANI TWENTY LASHES!

TAKEN LIKE A TRUE CHIEF, KYGANI. NOW, YOU, CHIEF OF THE OSI-WEY, SHALL GIVE TARI TEN LASHES!

64
tomorrow— HILL ON THE STAND.

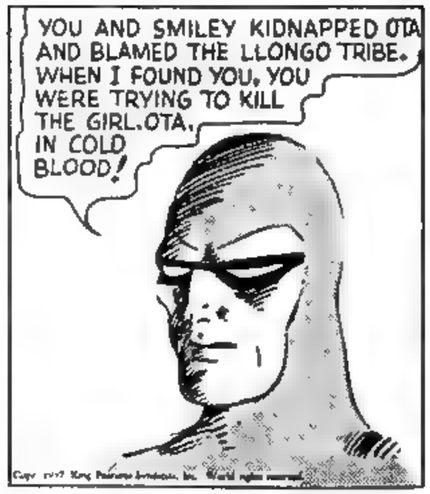
BRING THE TRADER, HILL, BEFORE ME.

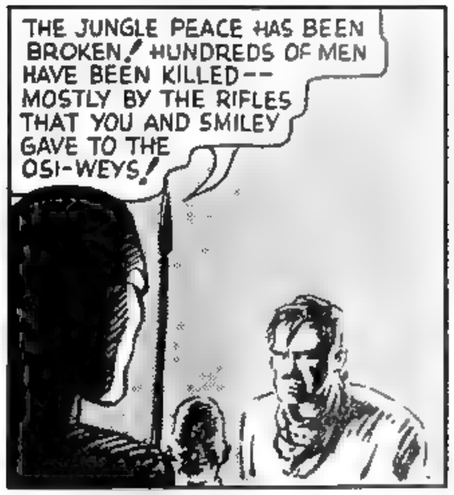
HILL, WHERE'S YOUR PARTNER, SMILEY?
I DON'T KNOW-- HONEST, I DON'T! WHAT YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?! KEEP THEM SAVAGES AWAY FROM ME!

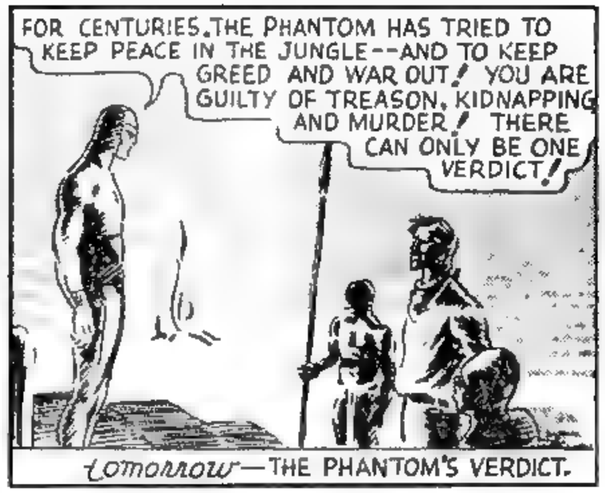

SMILEY GOT ME INTO THIS! I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT! IT WAS HIS IDEA TO KIDNAP OTA AND START THE WAR, SO WE'D GET THE DIAMOND FIELDS!
65

WHY, THE YELLOW SNITCHER!
MEANWHILE, HIDDEN IN THE BUSHES, WATCHING THE STRANGE FIRE-LIGHT SCENE--IS SMILEY!

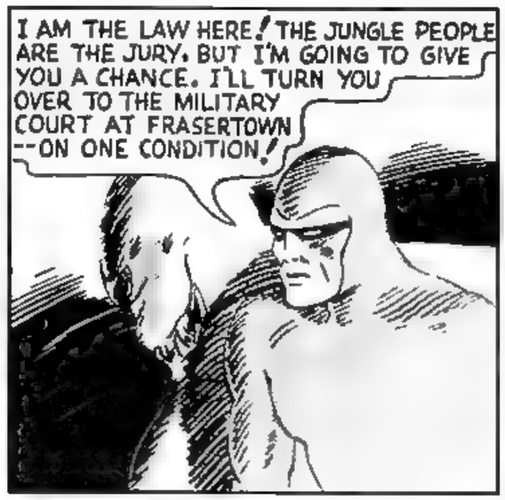
HILL, THE PROSPECTOR, IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE PHANTOM'S COURT!
HILL, THROUGH GREED, YOU AND YOUR PARTNER SMILEY, STARTED THIS JUNGLE WAR!
IT WAS ALL SMILEY'S IDEA! HE MADE ME DO IT WITH HIM!
67


YOU AND SMILEY KIDNAPPED OTA AND BLAMED THE LLONGO TRIBE. WHEN I FOUND YOU, YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL THE GIRL, OTA, IN COLD BLOOD!


THE JUNGLE PEACE HAS BEEN BROKEN! HUNDREDS OF MEN HAVE BEEN KILLED -- MOSTLY BY THE RIFLES THAT YOU AND SMILEY GAVE TO THE OSI-WEYS!


FOR CENTURIES, THE PHANTOM HAS TRIED TO KEEP PEACE IN THE JUNGLE -- AND TO KEEP GREED AND WAR OUT! YOU ARE GUILTY OF TREASON, KIDNAPPING AND MURDER! THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE VERDICT!
tomorrow — THE PHANTOM'S VERDICT.

HILL -- FOR YOUR CRIMES -- THE VERDICT OF THE JUNGLE IS -- DEATH.
NO -- NO -- YOU CAN'T. TURN-TURN ME OVER TO-TO A REGULAR COURT OF LAW! A TRIAL BY JURY!


I AM THE LAW HERE! THE JUNGLE PEOPLE ARE THE JURY. BUT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE. I'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THE MILITARY COURT AT FRASERTOWN -- ON ONE CONDITION!

IT'S A CHANCE YOU DON'T DESERVE. BUT I FEEL THAT THE MISSING SMILEY IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE WAR. I WANT A SIGNED CONFESSION FROM YOU STATING THAT --
I'LL DO ANYTHING! IT'S ALL SMILEY'S FAULT! HE GOT ME INTO THIS!
68

NEARBY, HIDDEN IN THE THICK BUSHES, SMILEY WATCHES.

I WANT A FULL CONFESSION FROM YOU— TELLING HOW YOU AND SMILEY KIDNAPPED OTA AND STARTED THE JUNGLE WAR. THEN--
I'LL WRITE IT! I'LL WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING!

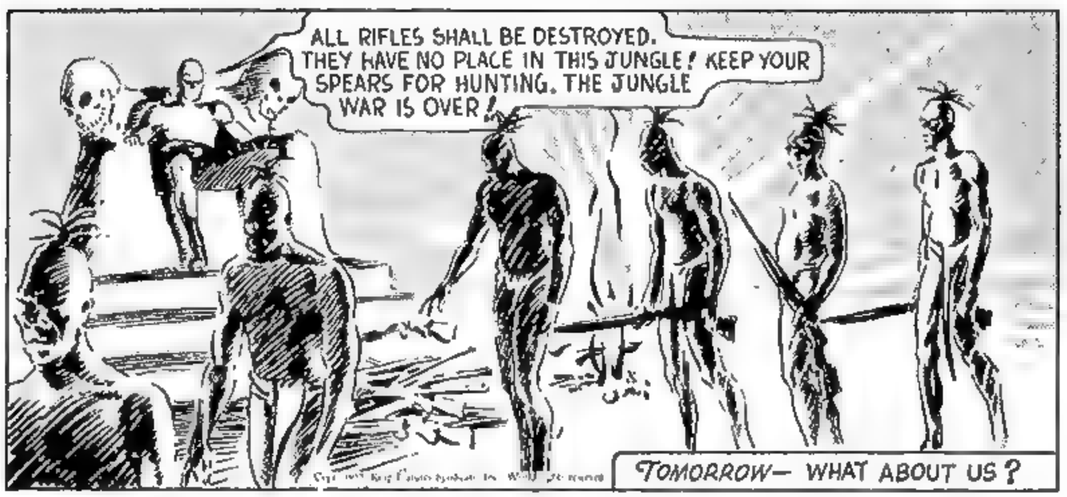
THEN YOU WILL HELP US FIND SMILEY. AFTERWARDS, YOU WILL BE TURNED OVER TO A MILITARY COURT. I WILL TAKE CARE OF SMILEY, MYSELF!
I'LL FIND HIM ALL RIGHT! I KNOW ALL HIS HIDING-PLACES! I'LL LEAD YOU RIGHT TO HIM!

RAT ON ME— WILL YOU?

UH!--
6-9

WE HAVE SEARCHED THE JUNGLE.
WE COULD FIND NO TRACE OF SMILEY.
WELL, I GUESS HE GOT AWAY. HE KNOWS THE JUNGLE AS WELL AS WE DO.
JUST AS HILL IS ABOUT TO WRITE HIS CONFESSION, HE IS SHOT IN THE BACK BY THE HIDDEN SMILEY!

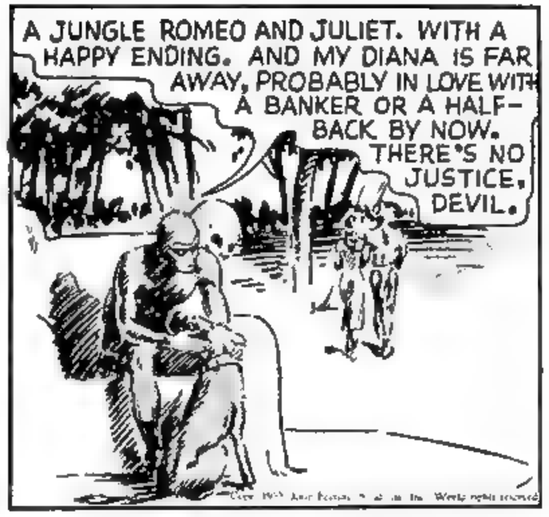
HE WILL BE TAKEN TO THE COAST FOR A DECENT BURIAL. POOR, WEAK MAN. HE WAS JUST SMILEY'S TOOL.
6 IC

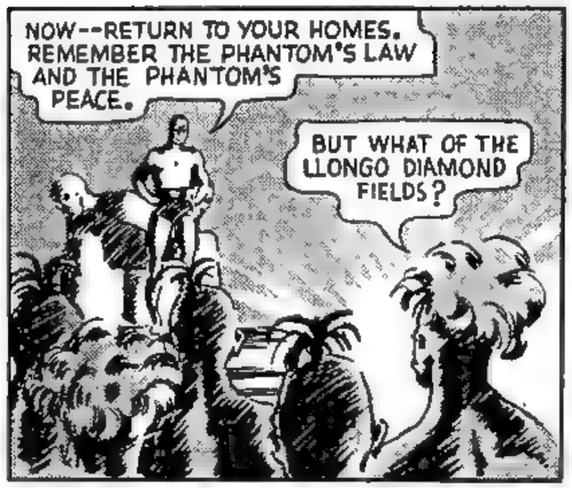

ALL RIFLES SHALL BE DESTROYED. THEY HAVE NO PLACE IN THIS JUNGLE! KEEP YOUR SPEARS FOR HUNTING. THE JUNGLE WAR IS OVER!
TOMORROW— WHAT ABOUT US?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN US? OTA AND I. WE LOVE EACH OTHER. OUR FATHERS WILL NOT LET US MARRY.
THEY WON'T, EH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

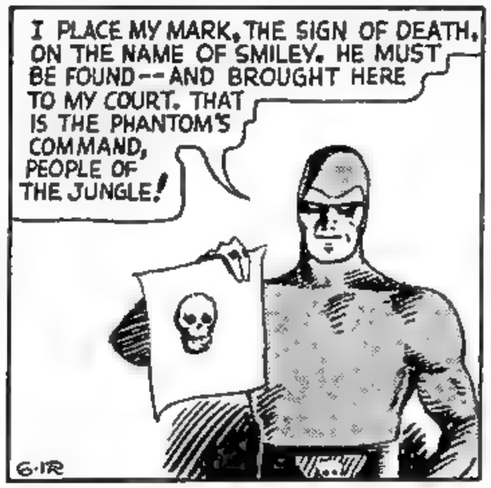
TARI OF THE LLONGO-- KYGANI OF THE OSI-WEY. BOTH GREAT CHIEFS OF GREAT TRIBES. YOUR FEUD IS ENDED. SHAKE HANDS.

IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND OTHER HIGH AND NOBLE MATTERS, I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE BETROTHAL OF OTA AND KULA.
6-11


A JUNGLE ROMEO AND JULIET. WITH A HAPPY ENDING. AND MY DIANA IS FAR AWAY, PROBABLY IN LOVE WITH A BANKER OR A HALF-BACK BY NOW. THERE'S NO JUSTICE, DEVIL.


NOW--RETURN TO YOUR HOMES. REMEMBER THE PHANTOM'S LAW AND THE PHANTOM'S PEACE.
BUT WHAT OF THE LLONGO DIAMOND FIELDS?

IF THOSE FIELDS WERE OPENED, YOU WOULD BE TURNED INTO SLAVES TO WORK IN THEM. FOR THAT REASON, I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT! YOU ARE HAPPIER NOW, WITHOUT THE DIAMOND FIELDS!


I PLACE MY MARK, THE SIGN OF DEATH, ON THE NAME OF SMILEY. HE MUST BE FOUND--AND BROUGHT HERE TO MY COURT. THAT IS THE PHANTOM'S COMMAND, PEOPLE OF THE JUNGLE!
6-12

I--I GUESS I'M SAFE--NOW! CHEATED ME OUT OF THE DIAMOND FIELDS! TURNED THE NATIVES AGAINST ME! I'LL FIND THAT PHANTOM ALONE SOMEDAY--AND PUT A BULLET BETWEEN HIS EYES!
AND MANY MILES AWAY, SMILEY REACHES THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE. . . . Continued—

DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER SEE DIANA AGAIN, DEVIL? DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. I KNOW I WAS A FOOL NOT TO GO AFTER HER.

BUT I HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE, AND SEE THAT THE JUNGLE PEACE IS KEPT AND I CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL I CATCH THAT SMILEY--THE MAN WHO STARTED THE JUNGLE WAR!
6-14

AW--IT'S SILLY TO THINK ABOUT DIANA. I CAN'T EXPECT A GIRL LIKE THAT TO WASTE HER LIFE ON ME. GUESS I'LL HAVE TO FORGET HER, DEVIL. BUT THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

DIANA!
MEL HORTON! I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE BACK THIS WAY AGAIN. WHERE IS HE? WHERE CAN I FIND HIM?
MEANWHILE, AT FRASERTOWN, ON THE COAST---

BUT DIANA, YOU CAN'T GO INTO THE JUNGLE. THERE'S BEEN A NATIVE WAR. THINGS ARE UNSETTLED.
UNSETTLED? WELL. I'VE BEEN UNSETTLED FOR A LONG TIME, TOO. I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, YOU KNOW.

BUT HOW WILL YOU FIND HIM?
I'LL TAKE A SAFARI INTO THE JUNGLE, MEL. AND IF I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE JUNGLE GRAPE-VINE, NEWS WILL SOON REACH THE PHANTOM THAT I'M NEAR HIM.

THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, HE WAS KISSING ANOTHER WOMAN -- TO SAVE MY LIFE. AND I MISUNDERSTOOD -- AND HURT HIM WITH MY WORDS. DON'T WORRY--I'LL FIND HIM.
6-15

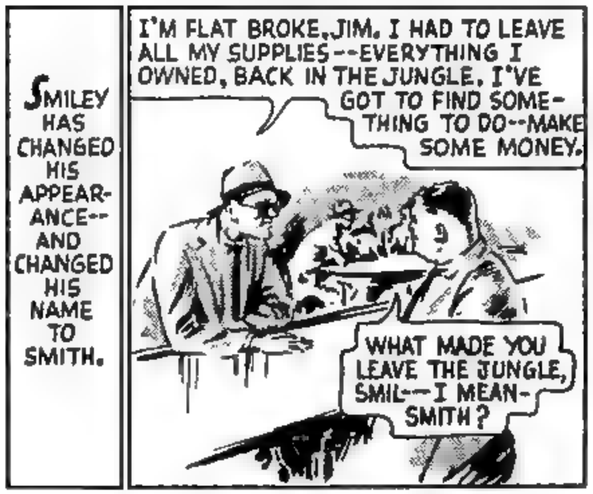
THAT'S--THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, DIANA. THAT--THAT YOU WILL FIND HIM.

WE HAVE NOT FOUND THE WHITE TRADER, SMILEY. OH GHOST, WHO WALKS.
KEEP UP THE SEARCH --IF WE HAVE TO TURN THE JUNGLE UP-SIDE-DOWN. SMILEY MUST BE FOUND--AND BROUGHT TO ME!

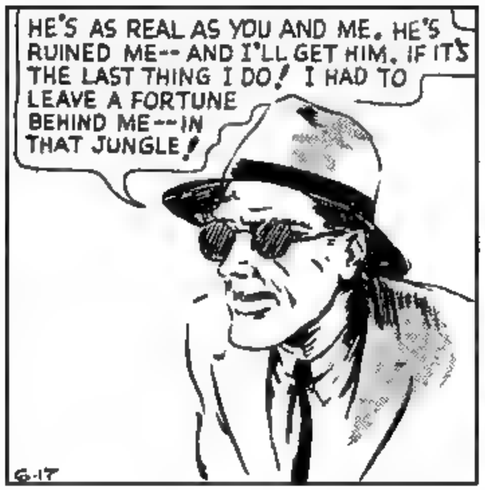
LET ME HAVE A DRINK.
SURE, PARTNER. SAY--WHY, IT'S YOU, AIN'T IT, SMILEY? DARNED, I HARDLY RECOGNIZED YOU! WHAT YOU DOING IN FRASERTOWN?

SHAVED YOUR MUSTACHE, DYED YOUR HAIR--- AND WEARING BLINKERS. WHAT'S THE IDEA, SMILEY?
IN CASE ANYBODY WANTS TO KNOW, MY NAME'S SMITH! YOU NEVER HEARD OF SMILEY, SEE!

OKAY-- SMITH.
THAT'S BETTER. NOW POUR YOURSELF A DRINK--ON ME.


SMILEY HAS CHANGED HIS APPEARANCE-- AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO SMITH.
I'M FLAT BROKE, JIM. I HAD TO LEAVE ALL MY SUPPLIES--EVERYTHING I OWNED, BACK IN THE JUNGLE. I'VE GOT TO FIND SOMETHING TO DO--MAKE SOME MONEY.
WHAT MADE YOU LEAVE THE JUNGLE, SMIL--I MEAN-SMITH?

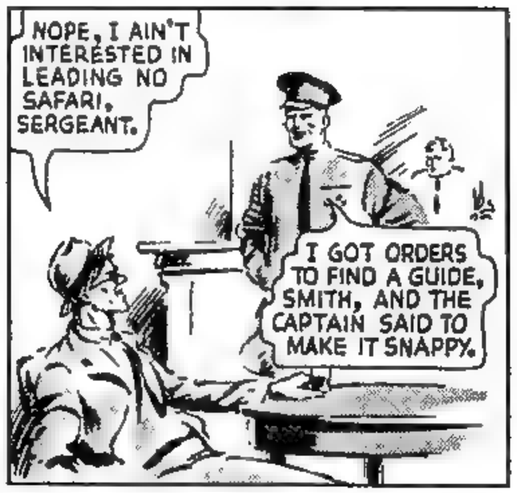
EVER HEAR OF THE PHANTOM?
PHANTOM? YEH, SORT OF A JUNGLE BOGYMAN, AIN'T HE? NATIVE MAMAS SCARE THEIR KIDS WITH HIS NAME.


HE'S AS REAL AS YOU AND ME. HE'S RUINED ME-- AND I'LL GET HIM, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! I HAD TO LEAVE A FORTUNE BEHIND ME--IN THAT JUNGLE!

THERE WAS LOTS OF TROUBLE BACK THERE IN THE JUNGLE FOR A SPELL. WHAT DID YOU DO--SMITH?
FORGET IT! I WANT ANOTHER DRINK.

YOU'LL NEED A GUIDE TO GO INTO THE INTERIOR, DIANA. SERGEANT, I WANT YOU TO RUSTLE UP A GUIDE FOR MISS PALMER. THEY USUALLY HANG OUT AT JIM'S PLACE. MAKE IT SNAPPY.
YES, SIR.

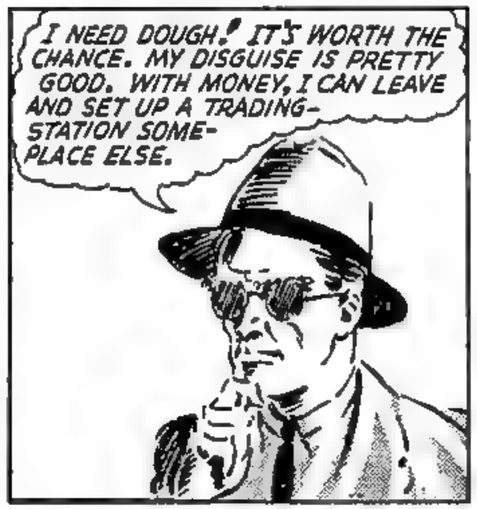
GUIDE? WELL, NOW THE BEST MAN ON THE INTERIOR IS OVER AT THAT TABLE. NAME'S SMILEY --I MEAN, SMITH, BUT I DON'T THINK HE---
I'LL TALK TO HIM, JIM. THANKS.


NOPE, I AIN'T INTERESTED IN LEADING NO SAFARI, SERGEANT.
I GOT ORDERS TO FIND A GUIDE, SMITH, AND THE CAPTAIN SAID TO MAKE IT SNAPPY.

NOW I GOT A SWELL DATE IN A HALF-HOUR, AND I AINT GOT TIME TO WASTE RUNNING AROUND FOR GUIDES. I DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU TAKE THE JOB OR NOT, BUT YOU GOTTA SEE THE CAPTAIN.
6-18

SORRY, CAPTAIN. I JUST AIN'T INTERESTED.
I'M NOT TRYING TO FORCE YOU, SMITH, BUT I WANT TO FIND A GOOD MAN TO LEAD MISS PALMER'S SAFARI INTO THE JUNGLE. WHOM CAN YOU RECOMMEND?

MR. SMITH, IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME THAT I LEAVE AT ONCE. MONEY IS NO OBJECT. NAME YOUR OWN PRICE.
NAME-- MY OWN PRICE?


I NEED DOUGH! IT'S WORTH THE CHANCE. MY DISGUISE IS PRETTY GOOD. WITH MONEY, I CAN LEAVE AND SET UP A TRADING-STATION SOME-PLACE ELSE.

IT'S A DEAL, MISS PALMER. MY FEE IS TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS.
NEVER MIND-- IT'S A BARGAIN. WE LEAVE AT ONCE, MR. SMITH.
SAY-- THAT'S PRETTY STEEP!
6-19
Continued--

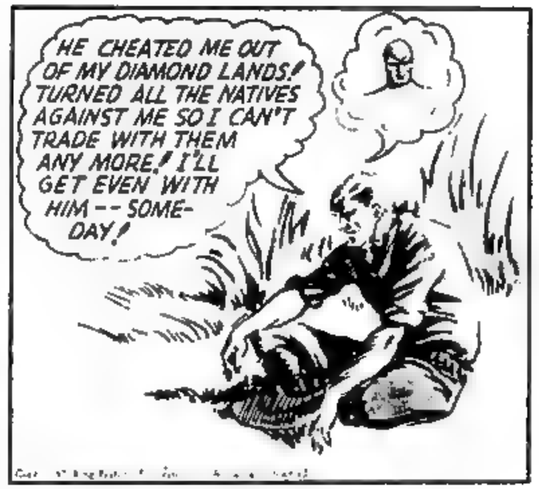
ALTERING HIS APPEARANCE AND CHANGING HIS NAME TO SMITH, SMILEY TAKES THE JOB AS DIANA'S GUIDE.
YES, MEL, MY IDEA IS TO GO INTO THE JUNGLE AND HOPE THAT THE PHANTOM WILL LEARN I'M THERE THROUGH THE NATIVE GRAPE-VINE.
WELL, THAT'S AS GOOD A WAY AS ANY. AN ARMY COULDN'T FIND HIM IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE FOUND.
I DON'T KNOW THIS FELLOW SMITH, BUT HE SEEMS TO KNOW HIS BUSINESS.
OH, I CAN TRUST HIM. MY WOMAN'S INTUITION NEVER FAILS ME IN THINGS LIKE THAT.
WELL, DIANA, GOOD LUCK AND WHEN YOU FIND THE PHANTOM, --SAY "HELLO" FOR ME.
CAPTAIN MELVILLE HORTON. YOU'RE A PEACH. IF I EVER HAVE A BROTHER, I HOPE HE'LL BE JUST LIKE YOU.
A BROTHER---

COME ON. ON YOUR FEET, BOYS. WE'RE READY TO START.
DIANA DOES NOT KNOW THAT SMITH, HER GUIDE, IS REALLY SMILEY.
NOW, MISS PALMER, THE ONLY DIRECTION YOU'VE GIVEN ME IS TO THE INTERIOR AND THE INTERIOR'S A PRETTY BIG PLACE. JUST WHERE DO YOU---
JUST THE INTERIOR, MR. SMITH, AND THE DEEPER AND DARKER IT IS, THE BETTER.
AND I WANT TO SEE SOME OF THE MORE REMOTE TRIBES.
TRIBES? WELL, I-ER- I'LL SEE WHAT CAN BE ARRANGED.
CRAZY DAME! WELL, IT'S HER DOUGH, BUT SHE AIN'T GONNA SEE ANY REMOTE TRIBES IF I CAN HELP IT! THAT'S ALL I NEED! THE WORD WOULD SPREAD AND THE PHANTON WOULD BE ON MY NECK!

WE'LL MAKE CAMP HERE FOR THE NIGHT. PITCH THE TENTS FIRST, BOYS, THEN BUILD THE FIRES AND GET WATER FROM THAT SPRING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL.

WELL, MISS PALMER, WE COVERED A GOOD DEAL OF GROUND TODAY. WE'RE GETTING IN BACK COUNTRY --WHAT YOU CALL THE INTERIOR.
GOOD. I'M WORN OUT. TELL THEM TO HURRY WITH MY TENT SO I CAN REST MY WEARY BONES.

MAYBE, IF I THINK HARD ENOUGH ABOUT HIM, HE'LL KNOW I'M HERE. DARLING--IT'S BEEN SO LONG!


HE CHEATED ME OUT OF MY DIAMOND LANDS! TURNED ALL THE NATIVES AGAINST ME SO I CAN'T TRADE WITH THEM ANY MORE! I'LL GET EVEN WITH HIM -- SOME-DAY!

RICH, DUMB DAME. DOESN'T KNOW WHERE SHE'S GOING, JUST AS LONG AS SHE'S GOING. THIS OUGHTA BE A REAL CHANCE FOR ME TO MAKE SOME BIG DOUGH.

MAYBE I COULD KIDNAP HER FOR A NICE HUNK OF RANSOM MONEY. IT'D BE EASY HERE. NAW, SHE'S A PAL OF CAPTAIN HORTON. HE'D HAVE THE WHOLE ARMY ON MY NECK.

BUT IT WOULD BE EASY TO SCARE HER A LITTLE AND SHAKE HER DOWN FOR SOME REAL DOUGH, THREATEN TO DESERT HER OR HAND HER OVER TO THE NATIVES ---

WELL, MR. SMITH, YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN FOR THE LAST HALF-HOUR. A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS.
HUH? OH, I--I WAS THINKING OF MY DEAR OLD MOTHER, MA'AM. AND THE SWELL TIMES I USED TO HAVE WHEN I WAS A KID. JUST SORTA REMINISCIN'.

MR. SMITH, WE'VE TRAVELED FOR TWO WEEKS AND WE'VE YET TO SEE A NATIVE TRIBE. I THINK YOU'RE PURPOSELY AVOIDING THEM.
IT AIN'T THAT AT ALL, MISS PALMER. THESE TRIBES ARE DANGEROUS. NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL DO. IT AIN'T SAFE.
NONSENSE! THESE TRIBES ARE FRIENDLY. WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING THEM?
THAT'S MY BUSINESS! I TOLD YOU THEY WERE DANGEROUS. IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY I'M DOING THINGS, I'LL QUIT RIGHT NOW!
I'M NO NOVICE AT THIS BUSINESS OF TRAVELING, MR. SMITH. I'VE BEEN ON A DOZEN SIMILAR SAFARIS. YOU WERE ENGAGED AS MY GUIDE!
BUT--BUT, MISS PALMER--
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STRAND ME OUT HERE. YOU WERE PAID TO TAKE ORDERS--AND I'M GIVING THEM! IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING IN WHAT YOU SAY, MA'AM.

LISTEN TO REASON, MA'AM. WE CAN'T JUST BARGE ALL OVER THE INTERIOR. IF THERE WAS SOME PARTICULAR PLACE YOU WANTED TO GO OR---
I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO SEE THE TRIBES, MR. SMITH, ANY TRIBES. SO FAR, YOU'VE AVOIDED ALL OF THEM.
BUT WAS THERE ANY SPECIAL REASON YOU HAD FOR---
I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU. I'M LOOKING FOR A PERSON--WHO IS HARD TO FIND. YOU KNOW HOW THE NATIVES PASS ALONG THE NEWS OF ANYTHING OR ANYONE WHO COMES INTO THE JUNGLE.
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO BEFORE? I KNOW JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY IN THESE WOODS. WHAT'S HIS NAME?
I SEE YOU TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT I'M LOOKING FOR A MAN. WELL, I AM, BUT I DOUBT VERY MUCH IF YOU'D KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM.
HE'S KNOWN AS--THE PHANTOM.
THE--THE PHANTOM!
Continued—

DIANA TELLS SMITH (WHO'S REALLY SMILEY) THAT SHE'S LOOKING FOR THE PHANTOM, NOT KNOWING THAT SMILEY FEARS THE PHANTOM MORE THAN ANY OTHER MAN.
THE PHANTOM? NOW, MA'AM, SOMEBODY'S BEEN KIDDIN' YOU. SENT YOU OUT ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE. WHY, THERE AIN'T NO SUCH PERSON. IT'S JUST A NATIVE SUPERSTITION.
HE MAY BE A SUPERSTITION, MR. SMITH, BUT HE'S ALSO VERY MUCH OF A PERSON.
YEAH? WELL, THAT'S ONE ON ME! I THOUGHT I KNEW ALL THE INS AND OUTS OF THIS JUNGLE. IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
YES, VERY MUCH SO.
OH-- I SEE.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS! HIS GIRL!
tomorrow— A FISH IN HIS MOUTH.

SO SHE'S THE PHANTOM'S GIRL! THE ONE GUY IN THE WORLD I WANT TO STEER CLEAR OF AND I'VE BEEN LEADING HER CLOSER TO HIM ALL THE TIME! THAT'S GOOD!
THE ONE GUY IN THE WORLD I WANT TO GET EVEN WITH--- AND HIS GIRL WALKS RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! AND SHE'S RICH---
I'LL KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE---SETTLE MY SCORE WITH HIM-- AND GET SOME REAL DOUGH OUT OF HER. WHAT LUCK! COMING NOW ---JUST WHEN I'M HUNTED AND PRACTICALLY BROKE!
SMILEY, OLD BOY, YOU FELL INTO THE WATER AND CAME OUT WITH A FISH IN YOUR MOUTH-- AND WHAT A FISH!

MR. SMITH, WHERE ARE ALL THE NATIVE BOYS?
I SENT THEM AHEAD TO CLEAR OUT THE BRUSH, BEFORE WE START MOVING, SWEETHEART.

MR. SMITH--!

HOW-- HOW DARE YOU?
I JUST WANTED TO KISS HIS GIRL! THAT'D BURN HIM UP!

AND NEVER MIND THE GUN, MISS PALMER. YOU AIN'T GONNA GET A CHANCE TO USE IT!
6 30

MR. SMITH-- WHAT-- WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU--
SMILEY'S THE NAME, NOT SMITH. THIS BOY FRIEND OF YOURS --THIS PHANTOM-- HE DID ME DIRT, SEE!

I'LL PAY YOU-- I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING TO LET ME GO--
HUH-- NOT SO SNAPPY NOW, ARE YOU-- WITHOUT YOUR GUN? LET YOU GO? FAT CHANCE!

BUT--BUT I'VE GOT MONEY--LOTS OF IT. I'LL PAY YOU WELL--I PROMISE.
YEAH? LET YOU GO BACK SO YOU CAN SET HORTON AND HIS SOLDIERS ON ME? I GOT OTHER PLANS FOR YOU!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS! HORTON WILL FIND OUT-- THE PHANTOM WILL FIND OUT!
BY THE TIME ANYBODY FINDS OUT ANYTHING, I'LL BE SO FAR AWAY THAT I MIGHT AS WELL BE ON THE MOON-- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO THEM!

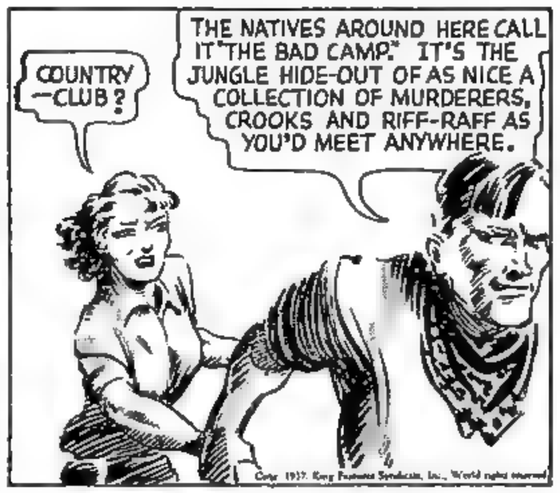
FUNNY HOW MUCH I THINK OF DIANA THESE DAYS, DEVIL. YOU'D THINK SHE WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, INSTEAD OF FOUR OR FIVE THOUSAND MILES AWAY.

THAT MAN IS DRUNK AND HE'S BEEN IN A FIGHT! WHAT HAPPENED?
HE WAS AT THE BAD CAMP, WISE AND MIGHTY PHANTOM.

PUT HIM IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR A WEEK. HE KNOWS IT'S AGAINST MY ORDERS FOR ANY OF THE JUNGLE PEOPLE TO GO NEAR THE BAD CAMP.

THE BAD CAMP--I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT. I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO CLEAN OUT THAT PLACE SOMEDAY. BUT THEN, THOSE FELLOWS DON'T SEEM TO BOTHER ANYONE, IF THEY'RE LEFT ALONE.
TOMORROW—THE "BAD CAMP" AGAIN.

WHERE--WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO MY COUNTRY CLUB. IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE.


COUNTRY—CLUB?
THE NATIVES AROUND HERE CALL IT "THE BAD CAMP." IT'S THE JUNGLE HIDE-OUT OF AS NICE A COLLECTION OF MURDERERS, CROOKS AND RIFF-RAFF AS YOU'D MEET ANYWHERE.

I WON'T GO ANOTHER STEP!
THEN I'LL HAVE TO CARRY YOU, MY FINE LADY. I'M GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN--AND MAYBE MAKE A LITTLE MORE MONEY OUTA THIS EXPEDITION.

THE BAD CAMP.
Next Week—SHIPS THAT PASS

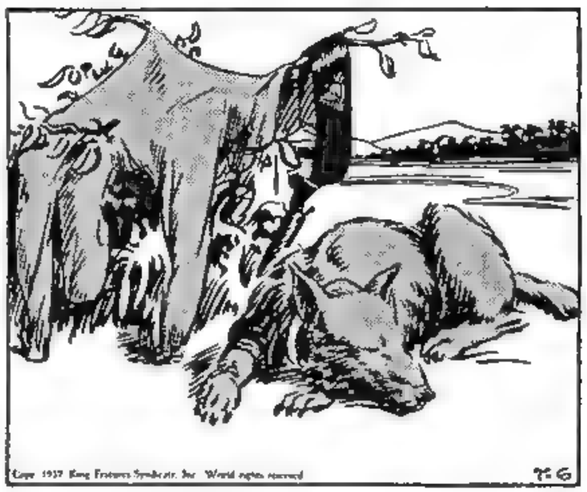
MONDAY'S WASH-DAY, DEVIL. THESE DUDS OF MINE NEED A LITTLE RENOVATING.

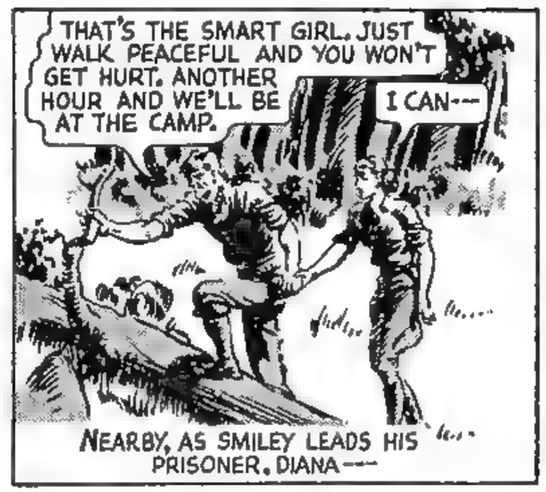
COME TO THINK OF IT, DEVIL, YOU HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD SCRUBBING IN A DOG'S AGE. YOU'RE NEXT ON THE PROGRAM.

HOLD STILL. YOU OUGHT TO SHOW A LITTLE APPRECIATION, INSTEAD OF KICKING UP SUCH A FUSS.

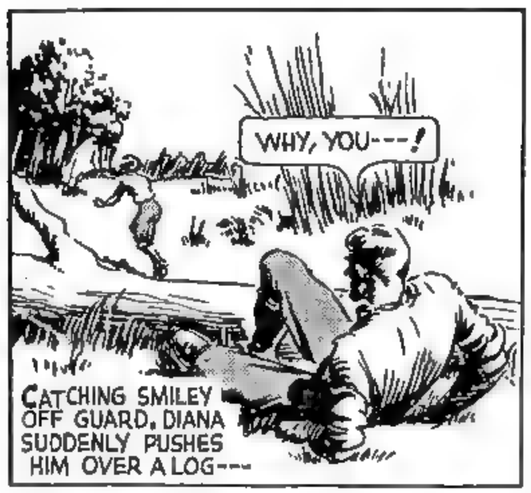
NOW ARE YOU GOING TO WALK PEACEFULLY OR DO I HAFTA CARRY YOU ALL THE WAY?
LET ME DOWN! I'LL --I'LL WALK!
AND MEANWHILE, ONLY A FEW MILES AWAY--

I'M GOING TO TAKE A SWIM, DEVIL. WATCH MY DUDS AND DON'T GO CHASING INTO THE WOODS AFTER RABBITS.




THAT'S THE SMART GIRL. JUST WALK PEACEFUL AND YOU WON'T GET HURT. ANOTHER HOUR AND WE'LL BE AT THE CAMP.
I CAN---
NEARBY, AS SMILEY LEADS HIS PRISONER, DIANA---

--HARDLY WAIT!
tomorrow—CHASE IN THE WOODS


WHY, YOU---!
CATCHING SMILEY OFF GUARD, DIANA SUDDENLY PUSHES HIM OVER A LOG---

IF ONLY I-I CAN GET AWAY FROM HIM--AND FIND--FIND SOME PLACE --TO HIDE!

GUARDING HIS MASTER'S 'DUDS', DEVIL'S KEEN EARS CATCH THE FAINT SOUNDS OF RUNNING FEET---

--AND DEVIL GOES OUT TO INVESTIGATE!

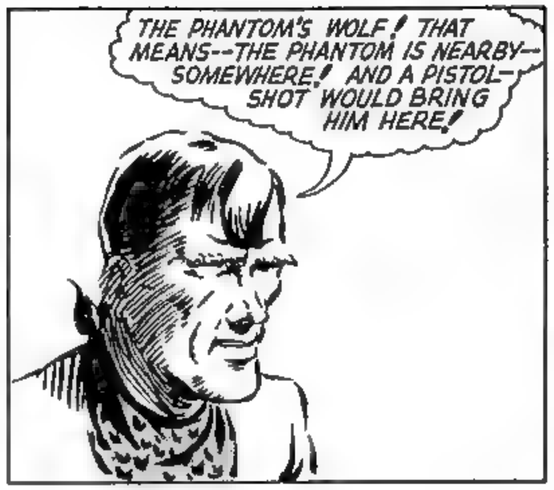
OH! MY ANKLE!
FLEEING FROM SMILEY, DIANA TRIPS OVER A TREE ROOT---

HA!--SHE FELL!

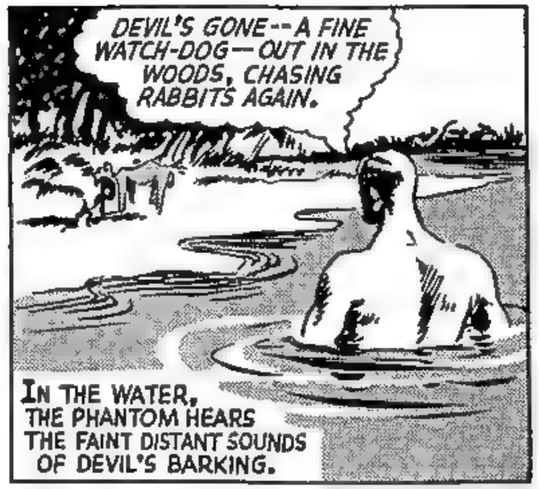
WATCHING IN THE BUSHES, DEVIL SUDDENLY RECOGNIZES AN OLD FRIEND.

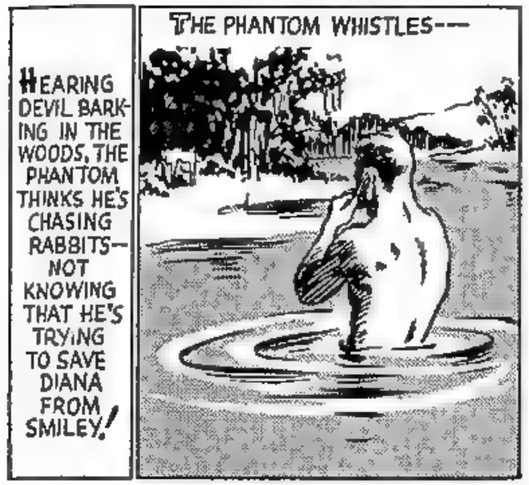
WHY--WHY--IT'S DEVIL! DEVIL-- COME HERE--!

GET THAT HOUND OUT OF MY WAY, BEFORE I PUT A BULLET INTO IT'S HEAD!
GO AFTER HIM, DEVIL! IT'S DEVIL--THE PHANTOM'S WOLF!


THE PHANTOM'S WOLF! THAT MEANS--THE PHANTOM IS NEARBY--SOMEWHERE! AND A PISTOL-SHOT WOULD BRING HIM HERE!

I'LL CLUB THE BRAINS OUT OF THAT DEVIL-HOUND!


DEVIL'S GONE--A FINE WATCH-DOG--OUT IN THE WOODS, CHASING RABBITS AGAIN.
IN THE WATER, THE PHANTOM HEARS THE FAINT DISTANT SOUNDS OF DEVIL'S BARKING.


HEARING DEVIL BARKING IN THE WOODS, THE PHANTOM THINKS HE'S CHASING RABBITS--NOT KNOWING THAT HE'S TRYING TO SAVE DIANA FROM SMILEY!
THE PHANTOM WHISTLES---

AND IN THE WOODS, THE PHANTOM'S LONG, PIERCING WHISTLE IS HEARD!

IT'S--IT'S HIM---
DEVIL BARKS LOUDER, HOPING TO ATTRACT HIS MASTER----

DEVIL--DEVIL---COME HERE---COME HERE--
CONTINUED—

The PHANTOM WHISTLES FOR DEVIL, NOT KNOWING THAT DEVIL HAS FOUND DIANA— AND HER CAPTOR, SMILEY.
DEVIL--
FINALLY, DEVIL RELUCTANTLY LEAVES, OBEDIENT TO HIS MASTER'S WHISTLE.
HELP--UH--
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
SH-STOP MAKING SO MUCH NOISE. YOU'RE A FINE ONE. I LEAVE YOU TO WATCH MY CLOTHES AND YOU GO OFF CHASING RABBITS.
WOOF! WOOF!
TOMORROW — THE "BAD CAMP."

THE BACKWOODS HIDE-OUT OF FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE, THIEVES AND KILLERS --- KNOWN TO THE NATIVES AS THE "BAD CAMP."
SAY, COTTON, SMILEY JUST BREEZED IN-- WITH A DAME.
YEAH?
HI, SMILEY. AIN'T SEEN YOU IN A LONG TIME. BROUGHT THE GIRL-FRIEND ALONG, HUH?
HI, COTTON. NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
THIS IS A BUSINESS TRIP— AND SHE'S THE BUSINESS.
Tomorrow—THE BUSINESS

HAVE A SEAT, MA'AM! BOYS, I'M HERE TO MAKE A DEAL. THIS GAL IS WORTH A GOB OF MONEY!

OH, YOU'RE PULLING A SNATCH?
NO, NOT EXACTLY. THAT'S NOT MY RACKET, COTTON. BESIDES, I-ER-HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO WAIT AROUND THESE PARTS FOR A RANSOM.

SO, I'M GONNA SELL MY INTEREST IN THIS LITTLE LADY, SEE? AND THE FELLOW, OR FELLOWS, THAT BUYS MY INTEREST, CAN BE SURE OF COLLECTING A RANSOM OF AT LEAST FIFTY THOUSAND BUCKS!

FIFTY THOUSAND!
YEP! AT LEAST! I GOT HER THIS FAR! I'M GONNA SELL MY INTEREST TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER! AND THE BIDDING STARTS AT FIVE THOUSAND!

SMILEY WANTS TO SELL HIS "INTEREST" IN DIANA AND THE WINNING BIDDER WILL COLLECT THE RANSOM FOR HER.

WHAT KINDA FAST ONE ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL, SMILEY?
IT'S ON THE LEVEL, COTTON. THIS COUNTRY'S TOO HOT FOR ME, BUT THE GAL'S WORTH BIG DOUGH, AIN'T YOU?

I'LL--I'LL PAY ANYTHING TO-- TO GET AWAY FROM THIS AWFUL PLACE!
SEE? SHE WANTS TO GET AWAY FROM THIS AWFUL PLACE AND SHE'S GOT THE DOUGH THAT IT TAKES.

SAY! WHAT'S THAT NATIVE DOING HERE?
NO HARM IN HIM, SMILEY. THEY ALWAYS COME IN FOR A DRINK WHEN THEY GOT THE PRICE. SAY, WHAT'S EATING YOU?

MAYBE YOU'LL START CARRYING STORIES AROUND, EH? MAYBE YOU'LL GO BACK TO YOUR TRIBE AND TELL 'EM YOU SAW SMILEY HERE, EH?
NO-- NO-- PROMISE -- NO--

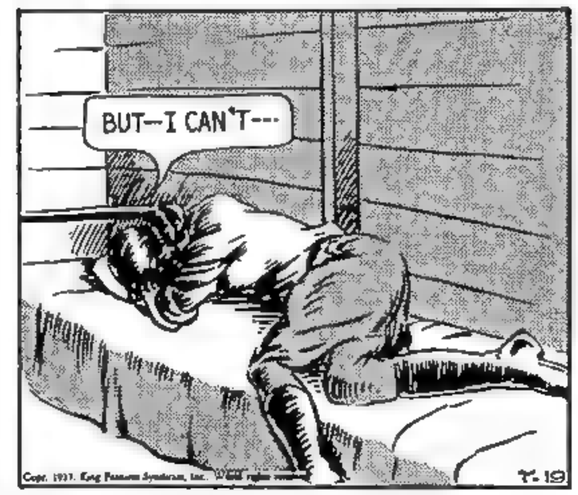
SMILEY IS STARTLED TO SEE A NATIVE AT THE BAR.
GET OUT—AND STAY OUT—AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
AND YOU STAY IN THERE AND DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY, BECAUSE THE DOOR WILL BE LOCKED!
YOU MUST BE "HOT," SMILEY. WHEN YOU SAW THAT NATIVE YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE GONNA HAVE A STROKE.
NEVER MIND THAT! WELL, I'M READY TO START THE BIDDING FOR THE GIRL—AT FIVE THOUSAND AMERICAN DOLLARS!
WELL, IT SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, BUT FIVE THOUSAND IS PRETTY HIGH TO START WITH.
YEH? WELL, THIS IS A SURE THING AND I'M NOT SELLING OUT CHEAP!

I DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD PAY OUT ANY DOUGH TO SMILEY UNTIL WE SEE THE COLOR OF HER MONEY.
YEH, WHY DO WE HAVE TO LAY IT OUT BEFORE HAND?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR CHANCE WITH US AND SPLIT WHATEVER DOUGH WE COLLECT?
YOU'RE AHEAD OF YOURSELF, BUDDY! WHERE DO YOU GET THAT "WE" STUFF?
I TOLD YOU I HAD TO GET OUT OF THIS COUNTRY, PRONTO! BUT UNLESS I GET CASH FOR THE GAL, I'M TAKING HER WITH ME! I'LL FIND SOMEBODY ELSE WHO KNOWS A GOOD THING WHEN THEY SEE ONE!
MEANWHILE, THE NATIVE THAT SMILEY THREW OUT OF THE CAMP SLOWLY REELS BACK TO HIS TRIBE.

DIANA IS HELD PRISONER WHILE SMILEY IS SELLING HER "RANSOM RIGHTS" TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.
TO THINK THAT HE--THE PHANTOM--- WAS SO NEAR ME AND YET SO FAR! WHY DIDN'T I SCREAM OUT THE MINUTE I HEARD HIM WHISTLING FOR DEVIL? I--I GUESS I WAS TOO SCARED TO THINK!

IF ONLY I COULD GET OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE PLACE -- NO -- IT'S LOCKED!

I MUST GET OUT --I'VE GOT TO GET OUT--!


BUT--I CAN'T---

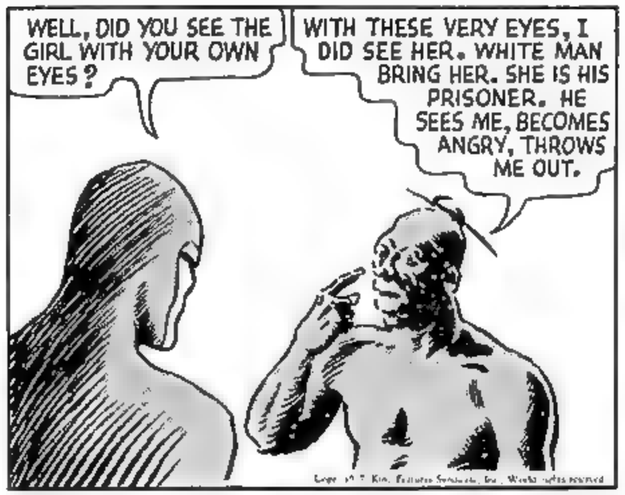
I STILL DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF LAYING OUT DOUGH TO YOU, SMILEY-- JUST ON THE CHANCE THAT WE'LL COLLECT A RANSOM FOR HER.
YOU CAN CHECK UP ON THE COAST. I TELL YOU SHE'S RICH!

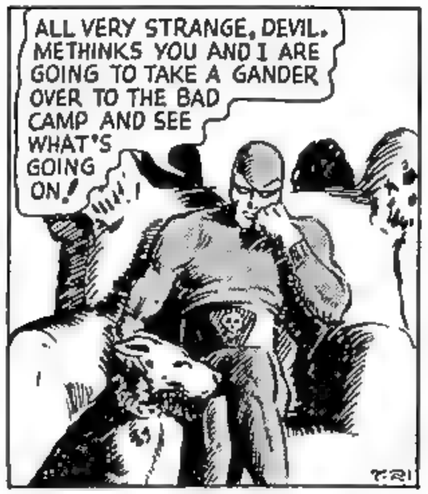
I THINK SMILEY'S TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE! THE GIRL'S HERE! WHY NOT HANDLE THE DEAL, OURSELVES-- AND CUT HIM OUT OF IT?

ANYBODY ELSE GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS LIKE THAT?

THERE'S A RUMOR THAT A WHITE GIRL IS IN THE BAD CAMP. I'VE TRACED THE RUMOR DOWN TO ZOLI OF THE DJARLING TRIBE. BRING HIM TO ME.

ZOLI, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME AND TELL ME ABOUT THIS?
YOU TELL US NEVER TO GO TO BAD CAMP. I GO. I GET DRUNK. I BREAK YOUR LAW. I AM AFRAID TO TELL.


WELL, DID YOU SEE THE GIRL WITH YOUR OWN EYES?
WITH THESE VERY EYES, I DID SEE HER. WHITE MAN BRING HER. SHE IS HIS PRISONER. HE SEES ME, BECOMES ANGRY, THROWS ME OUT.


ALL VERY STRANGE, DEVIL. METHINKS YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TAKE A GANDER OVER TO THE BAD CAMP AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

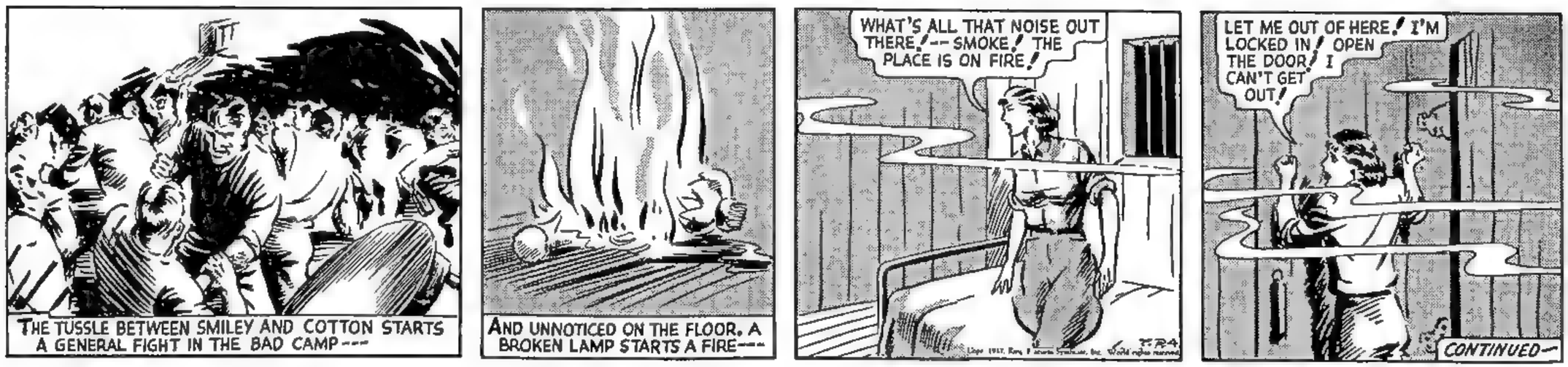
SMILEY, I THINK THE DEAL'S OKAY. I'LL GIVE YOU SEVEN THOUSAND BUCKS. I GET THE GIRL AND TAKE MY CHANCES ON COLLECTING FIFTY THOUSAND RANSOM. IT'S A GOOD GAMBLE.

IT'S NO GAMBLE. IT'S A SURE THING, COTTON. YOU CAN'T LOSE.
OKAY, I'M SOLD. NO MORE SALES TALK NECESSARY. FIVE THOUSAND--- FIVE HUNDRED, SIX---

OKAY, HERE YOU ARE, SMILEY.
YOU WON'T REGRET THIS. HER NAME'S DIANA PALMER AND I'D ADVISE YOU TO GET HER OUT OF THIS COUNTRY-- BECAUSE SHE'S THE GIRL-FRIEND OF THE PHANTOM!

WHAT! SHE'S THE PHANTOM'S GIRL! GIVE ME BACK MY DOUGH!

COTTON IS ABOUT TO BUY THE "RANSOM RIGHTS" ON DIANA FROM SMILEY, BUT WHEN HE HEARS THAT SHE'S THE PHANTOM'S GIRL---
YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW, COTTON. YOU MADE THE DEAL! HAND OVER THAT MONEY!
TRY AND GET IT, YOU RAT! PULLING A FAST ONE, HUH? LEAVING ME HOLDING THE BAG--THE PHANTOM'S GIRL! THAT'D BE PLAIN SUICIDE!
DROP THAT GUN--YOU HEEL!
TRYING TO SIC THE PHANTOM ON ME--HUH?
THE BAD CAMP'S JUST AHEAD, DEVIL. AS LONG AS THEY WERE PEACEFUL, I'VE LEFT THEM ALONE, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET THEM PULL ANY OF THEIR HI-JINKS IN THIS JUNGLE! A WHITE GIRL--IMPRISONED THERE!


THE TUSSLE BETWEEN SMILEY AND COTTON STARTS A GENERAL FIGHT IN THE BAD CAMP---
AND UNNOTICED ON THE FLOOR, A BROKEN LAMP STARTS A FIRE---
WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE OUT THERE!--SMOKE! THE PLACE IS ON FIRE!
LET ME OUT OF HERE! I'M LOCKED IN! OPEN THE DOOR! I CAN'T GET OUT!
CONTINUED--

THERE'S A FIRE--
STARTED IN THE BAD CAMP!
COME ON, DEVIL!
DOUBLE-TIME!

UH--!
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!

COME ON, YOU! I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE TO ROAST! YOU'RE TOO VALUABLE!
OH-- THE--SMOKE--

COME ON! WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE-- PRONTO!

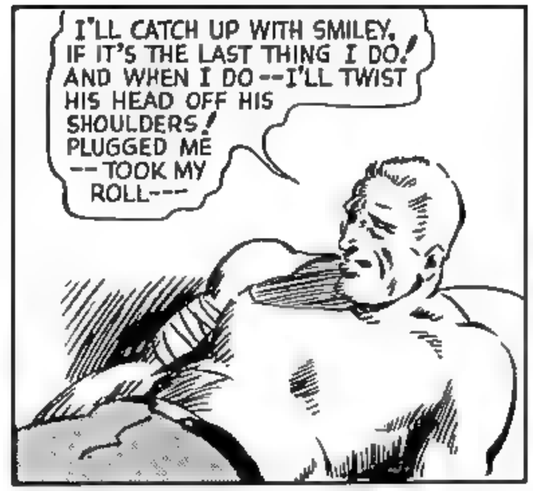
WHOA! THE PHANTOM!

NOT THAT WAY--THIS WAY! THAT GUY HAS A GENIUS FOR SHOWING UP AT THE WRONG TIME!

BUT HE'D HAVE TO BE TWINS TO KEEP UP WITH YOURS TRULY!

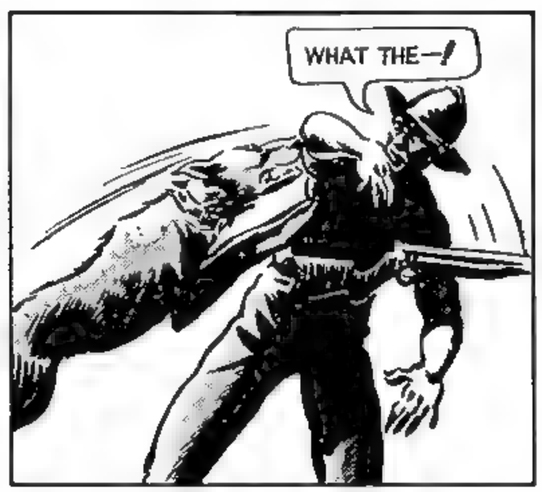
ANOTHER BUCKET'LL FINISH HER.
BOY, THAT WAS CLOSE! A FEW MORE MINUTES, AND THIS PLACE WOULD HAVE GONE UP IN SMOKE!

TAKE IT EASY, COTTON. YOU'RE NOT HURT BAD. YEH, SMILEY GOT AWAY ALL RIGHT --WITH THE GIRL!
THE RAT!—UH--MY SHOULDER. AND— AND MY WALLET— MY MONEY'S GONE, TOO! SMILEY GOT OFF WITH MY DOUGH!


I'LL CATCH UP WITH SMILEY, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! AND WHEN I DO --I'LL TWIST HIS HEAD OFF HIS SHOULDERS! PLUGGED ME --TOOK MY ROLL---

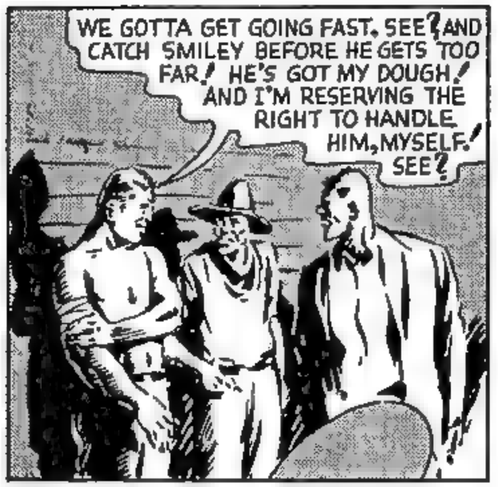
SMILEY! THE MAN WHO STARTED THE JUNGLE WAR! SMILEY!

A "BAD CAMP" LOOK-OUT SPOTS THE PHANTOM!
HEY--WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? WHO ARE YOU? STAND UP QUICK OR I'LL--


WHAT THE—!

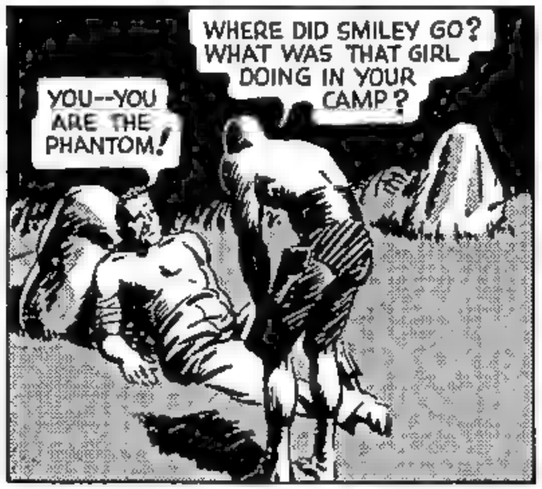
WHY--YOU--YOU'RE THE--

DON'T SAY IT--AND JUST FORGET-- WE EVER MET!
tomorrow— SHOT IN THE DARK


WE GOTTA GET GOING FAST, SEE? AND CATCH SMILEY BEFORE HE GETS TOO FAR! HE'S GOT MY DOUGH! AND I'M RESERVING THE RIGHT TO HANDLE HIM, MYSELF! SEE?

WHO SHOT OUT THE LIGHT?
WHAT IS THIS?
HEY—!
OUCH!

T-30

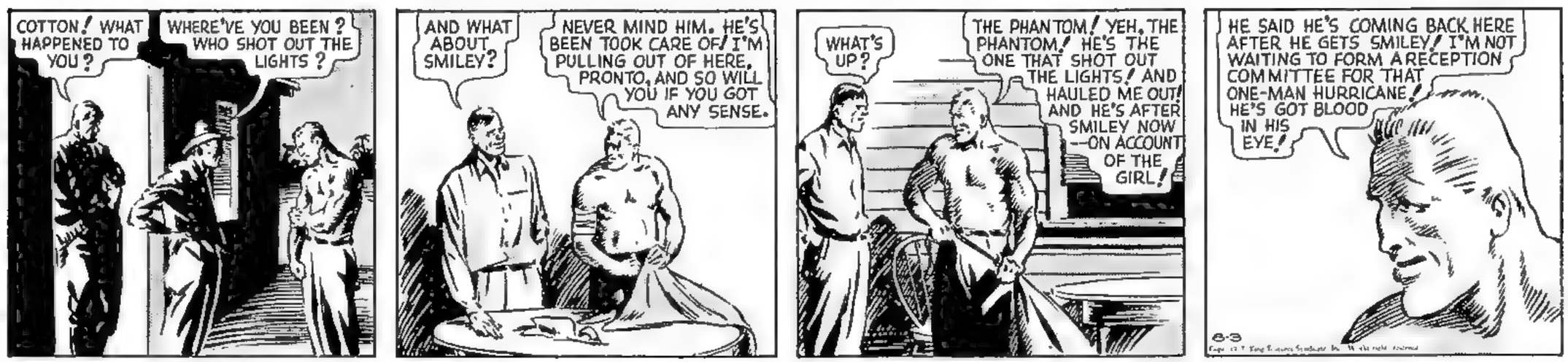

WHERE DID SMILEY GO? WHAT WAS THAT GIRL DOING IN YOUR CAMP?
YOU--YOU ARE THE PHANTOM!

I SWEAR I DIDN'T HAVE NOTHIN' TO DO WITH IT! HONEST-- YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME! I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS YOUR GIRL!

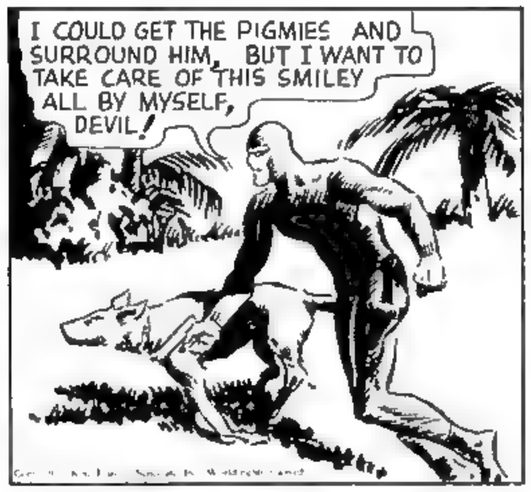
MY GIRL? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S WHAT SMILEY SAID! HE SAID HER NAME WAS PALMER-- DIANA PALMER.
T-31

DIANA!
Continued—

The PHANTOM LEARNS FROM COTTON THAT SMILEY HAS KIDNAPPED DIANA.
YOU'RE POSITIVE HER NAME WAS--DIANA PALMER ?
Y-YES. AND--AND SMILEY SAID SHE--SHE WAS YOUR G-GIRL.
THEN DIANA--WAS THE GIRL HELD IN THE CAMP ALL ALONG--BY SMILEY, THE MAN WHO STARTED THE JUNGLE WAR!
I--I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU GET SMILEY. HE-- HE TOOK MY DOUGH AND--
I DON'T NEED HELP. AND AFTER I FIND SMILEY, I'M COMING BACK TO CLEAN OUT THAT CAMP OF YOURS!
WHEW! I'D HATE TO BE IN SMILEY'S BOOTS! COMING BACK, IS HE? WELL, I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE, PRONTO!


COTTON! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WHO SHOT OUT THE LIGHTS?
AND WHAT ABOUT SMILEY?
NEVER MIND HIM. HE'S BEEN TOOK CARE OF! I'M PULLING OUT OF HERE, PRONTO, AND SO WILL YOU IF YOU GOT ANY SENSE.
WHAT'S UP?
THE PHANTOM! YEH, THE PHANTOM! HE'S THE ONE THAT SHOT OUT THE LIGHTS! AND HAULED ME OUT! AND HE'S AFTER SMILEY NOW --ON ACCOUNT OF THE GIRL!
HE SAID HE'S COMING BACK HERE AFTER HE GETS SMILEY! I'M NOT WAITING TO FORM A RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR THAT ONE-MAN HURRICANE! HE'S GOT BLOOD IN HIS EYE!

WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. DEVIL. THAT'S HER FOOT-PRINT! NOT ANOTHER LIKE IT IN THE JUNGLE. THE OTHER ONE -- IS SMILEY'S!

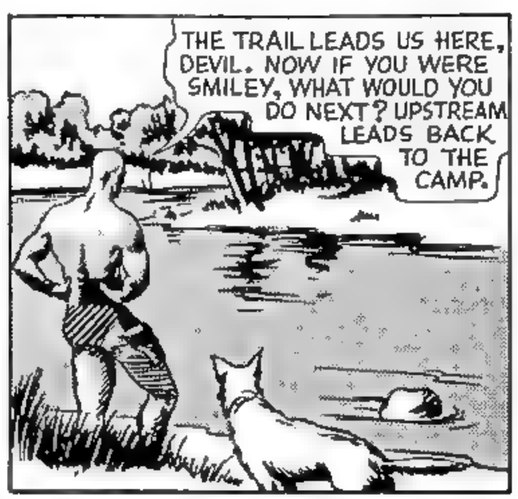

I COULD GET THE PIGMIES AND SURROUND HIM, BUT I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF THIS SMILEY ALL BY MYSELF, DEVIL!

I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO DRAG YOU! ARE YOU GOING TO RUN AHEAD OF ME, QUIET-LIKE, OR AM I GONNA HAVE TO SHOOT?
I'LL RUN!

I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE! HE'S FOLLOWING! AND IF YOU HAD WINGS, YOU COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM! HE'LL CATCH UP-- HE'LL CATCH UP!
8-4

THAT PHANTOM IS LIKE A BLOOD-HOUND! HE'D TRACK US TO TIMBUKTU! BUT THERE'S ALWAYS ONE WAY OF SHAKING A BLOOD-HOUND!

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND GETTING YOUR LITTLE FEET WET!
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU ANY MORE! HE'LL FIND US!

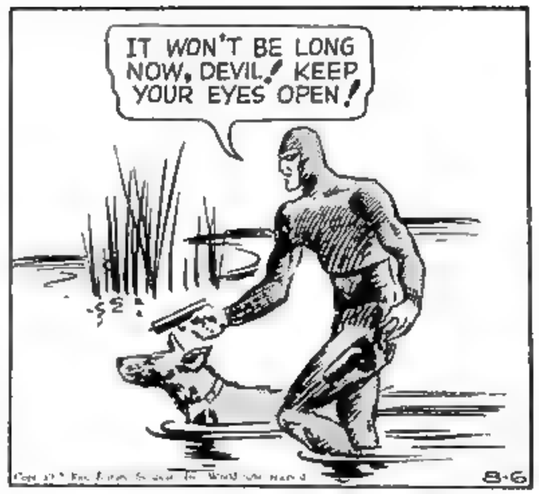

THE TRAIL LEADS US HERE, DEVIL. NOW IF YOU WERE SMILEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO NEXT? UPSTREAM LEADS BACK TO THE CAMP.

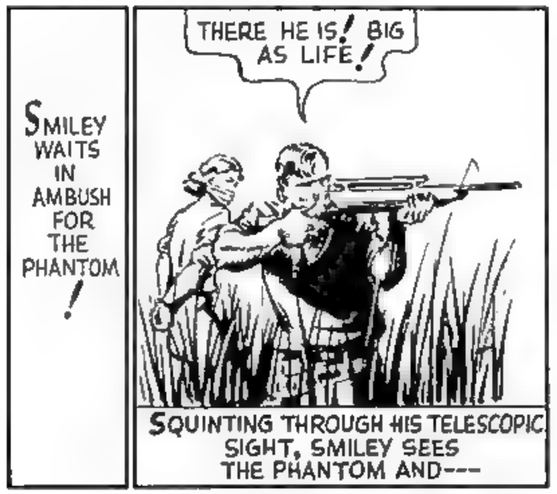
YOU'D GO DOWNSTREAM, OF COURSE, DEVIL, HOPING TO MAKE ME LOSE THE TRAIL.
8-5
tomorrow- AMBUSH

I'VE GOT A FEELING WE HAVEN'T SHAKEN HIM AND I CAN'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH WITH YOU TO GET AWAY FROM HIM!
WHAT NOW, MASTER MIND?

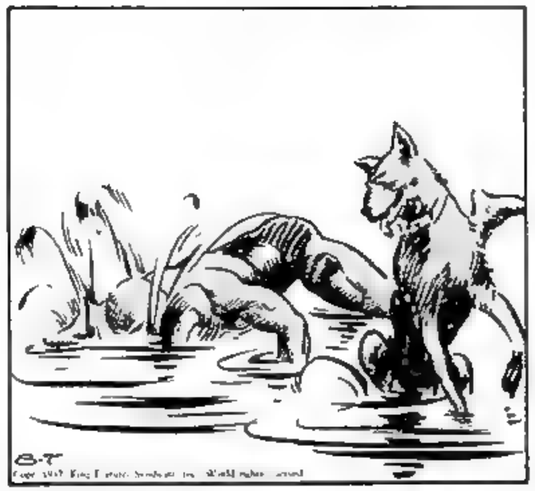
UGH--UH--
THIS IS JUST A LITTLE SILENCER FOR THAT TONGUE OF YOURS! MASTER MIND, HUH? WELL, YOU'RE NOT FAR WRONG!

WITH THIS TELESCOPIC SIGHT, I CAN SPOT HIM A HALF-MILE AWAY AND BRING HIM DOWN BEFORE HE KNOWS WHAT HIT HIM!


IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, DEVIL! KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!
8-6

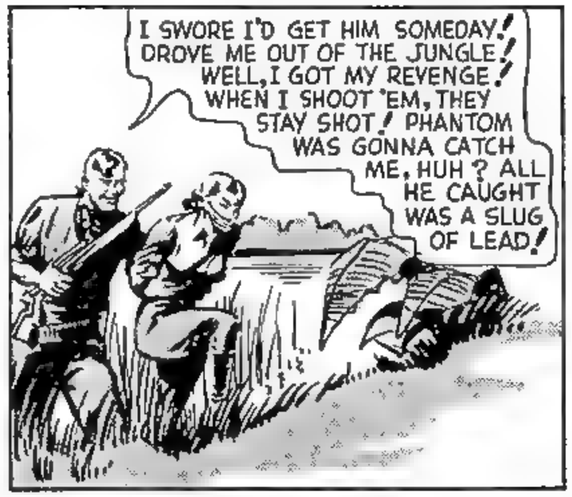

SMILEY WAITS IN AMBUSH FOR THE PHANTOM!
THERE HE IS! BIG AS LIFE!
SQUINTING THROUGH HIS TELESCOPIC SIGHT, SMILEY SEES THE PHANTOM AND---

WHY--YOU--
AS HE SHOOTS, DIANA LURCHES AGAINST HIM, BUT---



I GOT HIM! TRIED TO THROW ME OFF, DID YOU? WELL--OLD SMILEY GOT HIM! OLD SMILEY GOT THE PHANTOM!
Continued

TRIED TO SPOIL MY AIM, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, I GOT HIM! AND HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM! ME--I GOT THE PHANTOM!


I SWORE I'D GET HIM SOMEDAY! DROVE ME OUT OF THE JUNGLE! WELL, I GOT MY REVENGE! WHEN I SHOOT 'EM, THEY STAY SHOT! PHANTOM WAS GONNA CATCH ME, HUH? ALL HE CAUGHT WAS A SLUG OF LEAD!

HUSH UP, DEVIL, I'M ALL RIGHT. HE MUST HAVE USED A TELESCOPIC SIGHT--ALL I HEARD WAS A LITTLE "PING"--THEN THE WHIZZ OF THE BULLET.

QUIET A FEW MINUTES, DEVIL. HE'S GOT THE DROP ON ME, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS! SURE, I'M ALL RIGHT, YOU SILLY POOCH.
WOOF!
8-9

THINKING THE PHANTOM IS DEAD, SMILEY HURRIES ON WITH DIANA.

THAT STREAM'S GETTING DEEPER --AND FASTER. I DON'T KNOW THIS COUNTRY WELL! A NATIVE--WITH A DUG-OUT! NOW THAT'S AN IDEA!

WHAT YOU STARING AT? I TOLD YOU I WANT YOUR DUG-OUT.
I DON'T WANT TO SELL.
8-10

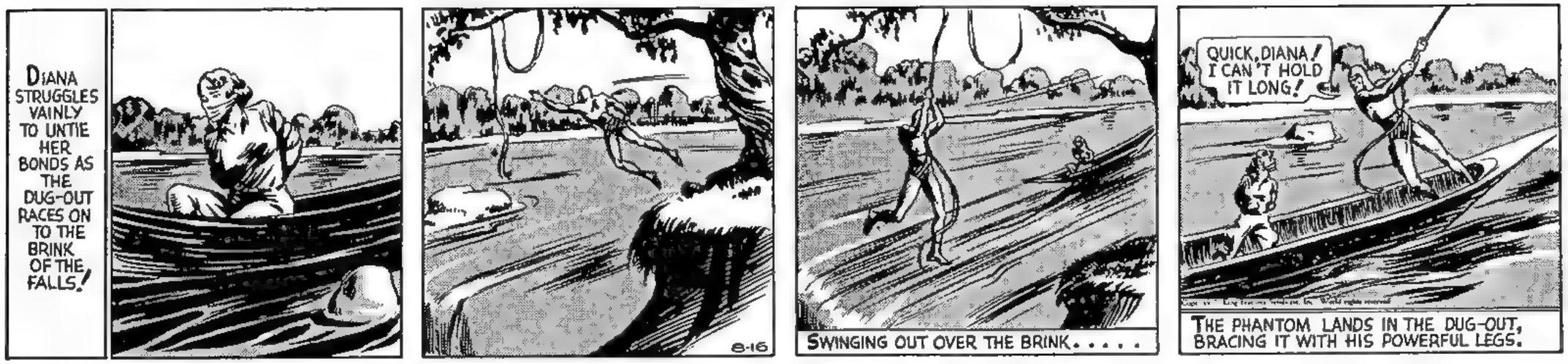
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE NOT SELLING AND I'M NOT BUYING. I'M TAKING! NOW GET GOING--WHILE YOU CAN STILL WALK!

I'M KEEPING YOU GAGGED FOR A WHILE LONGER, MISS PALMER. THE PHANTOM'S CASHED IN. BUT I'VE STILL GOT COTTON AND HIS PALS TO WORRY ABOUT!
OH!
DID YOU SEE A WHITE MAN WITH A WHITE GIRL NEAR HERE? QUICK, MAN!
Y-YES--TOOK MY DUG-OUT --GIRL WAS BOUND. LIKE PRISONER-- WENT DOWN-STREAM.
DOWNSTREAM! THE FOOL! IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, DEVIL!
tomorrow—THE FALLS.

GO AHEAD, CRY YOUR EYES OUT! HE'S DEAD! AND HE HAD IT COMING TO HIM! IT WAS EITHER HIM OR ME!
BY JINGO, THE CURRENT'S RUNNING FASTER AND FASTER! TAKING US ALONG AT A GOOD CLIP! WE'LL BE OUT OF THESE WOODS IN NO TIME!
THAT FOOL, SMILEY! HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE FALLS! AND DIANA'LL GO OVER WITH HIM!
SMILEY DOES NOT REALIZE THAT THE SPEEDING CURRENT IS DRAWING HIM CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE GREAT FALLS!

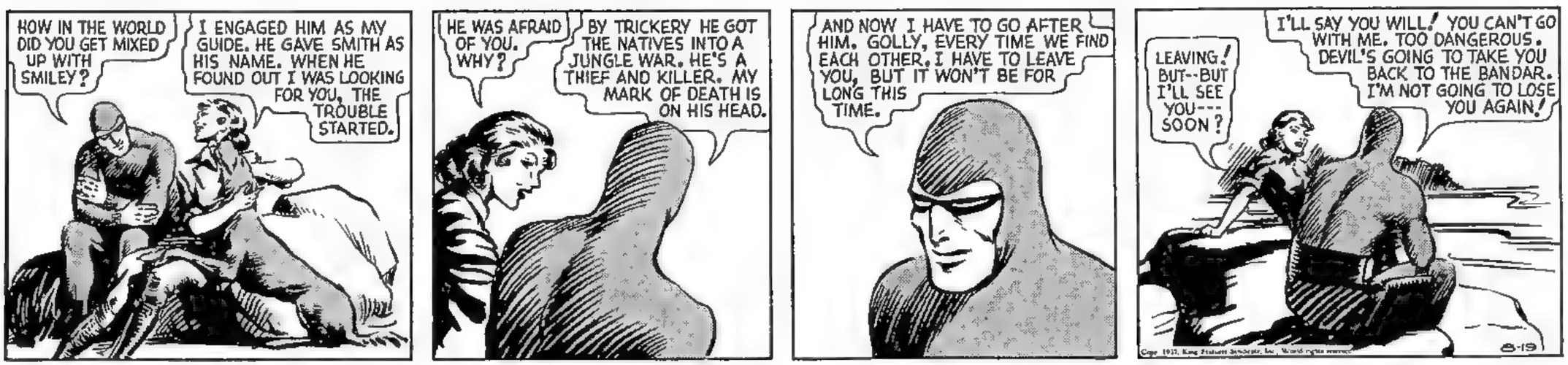
DRIFTING DOWN-STREAM, SMILEY SUDDENLY HEARS THE WARNING ROAR OF THE FALLS AHEAD!
BY JINGO! FALLS AHEAD! NO WONDER THE CURRENT SPEEDED UP! GOTTA HEAD INTO SHORE QUICK!
THE PHANTOM! GOODNIGHT!
8-13

SUDDENLY SEEING THE PHANTOM, SMILEY PADDLES FRANTICALLY TO THE OPPOSITE SHORE AND JUMPS OUT, TERROR-STRICKEN!
8-14
WHY DOESN'T DIANA JUMP OUT--OR PADDLE? DEVIL--SHE'S TIED!!
HELPLESS, DIANA IS CARRIED THROUGH THE FOAMING CASCADES ON TO THE BRINK OF THE FALLS!


DIANA STRUGGLES VAINLY TO UNTIE HER BONDS AS THE DUG-OUT RACES ON TO THE BRINK OF THE FALLS!
8-16
SWINGING OUT OVER THE BRINK.....
QUICK, DIANA! I CAN'T HOLD IT LONG!
THE PHANTOM LANDS IN THE DUG-OUT, BRACING IT WITH HIS POWERFUL LEGS.

The PHANTOM HALTS DIANA'S DUG-OUT ON THE BRINK OF THE FALLS.
NOW--TO CUT THOSE ROPES-- MY LEGS WON'T HOLD OUT UNDER THE STRAIN MUCH LONGER---
DARLING!
HANG ON!
HERE WE GO!
AND THERE IT GOES!
8-17
tomorrow—WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE—

DIANA!
DARLING!
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
TO FIND YOU.
8-18


HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET MIXED UP WITH SMILEY?
I ENGAGED HIM AS MY GUIDE. HE GAVE SMITH AS HIS NAME. WHEN HE FOUND OUT I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, THE TROUBLE STARTED.
HE WAS AFRAID OF YOU. WHY?
BY TRICKERY HE GOT THE NATIVES INTO A JUNGLE WAR. HE'S A THIEF AND KILLER. MY MARK OF DEATH IS ON HIS HEAD.
AND NOW I HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM. GOLLY, EVERY TIME WE FIND EACH OTHER, I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU, BUT IT WON'T BE FOR LONG THIS TIME.
LEAVING! BUT--BUT I'LL SEE YOU--- SOON?
I'LL SAY YOU WILL! YOU CAN'T GO WITH ME. TOO DANGEROUS. DEVIL'S GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE BANDAR. I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE YOU AGAIN!
8-19

I'M AFRAID, FOR YOU. SMILEY IS A TERRIBLE MAN. WHY NOT FORGET ABOUT HIM?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

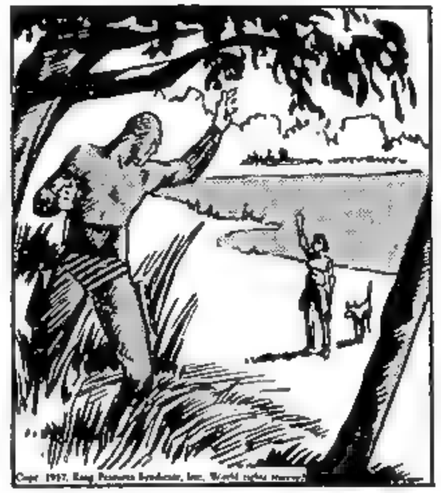
YES, I'VE NOTICED THAT! DARLING, IN ALL THE TIME I'VE KNOWN YOU, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR FACE WITHOUT THAT MASK. WON'T YOU TAKE IT OFF -- JUST ONCE?

PLEASE?
WELL, I FEEL SORTA UNDRESSED WITHOUT IT, BUT---

DARLING--- YOU'RE POSITIVELY HANDSOME!
AW-- YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT!

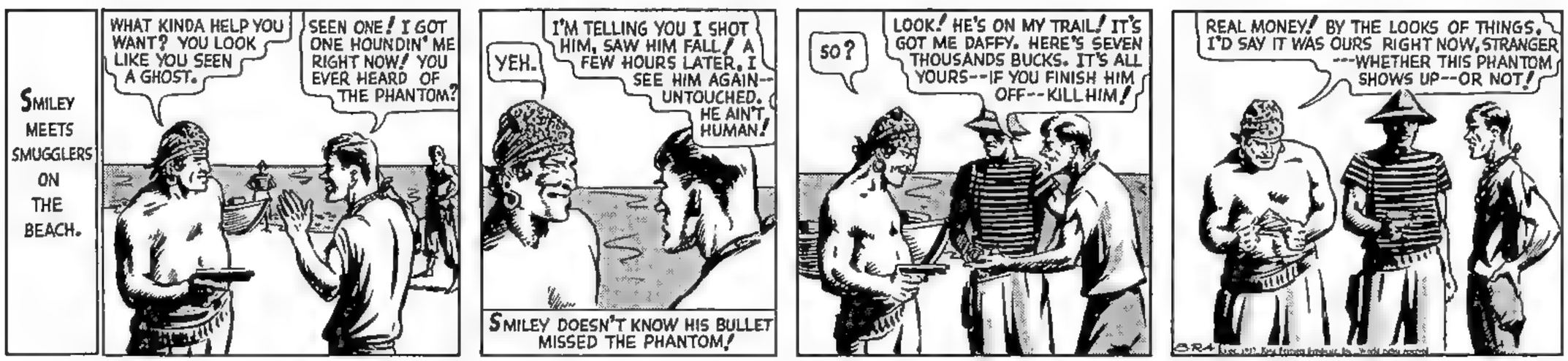
DEVIL, OLD FELLA -- GO TO BANDAR -- BANDAR -- BANDAR. GET IT?

DARLING-- BE CAREFUL --OF SMILEY--
YOU'LL BE SAFE WITH THE BANDAR--THEY'RE PIGMIES --AND THEY MIX POISONS-- BUT THEY'RE NICE LITTLE GUYS.



AHEAD, SMILEY TRUDGES ON THROUGH STEAMY SWAMPLAND, STREAMS, THICKETS -- TERRIFIED -- KNOWING THE PHANTOM IS BEHIND HIM!

TERROR-STRICKEN, SMILEY FLEES FROM THE PHANTOM--AND AT LENGTH REACHES THE SEA.
HMM--SMUGGLERS. WELL--I'LL BE SAFER WITH THEM--THAN IF I WAIT FOR HIM, ALONE!
WHAT YOU WANT HERE?
WHO ARE YOU?
I NEED HELP -- AND I'M WILLING TO PAY FOR IT.
tomorrow- DEAL AMONG THIEVES

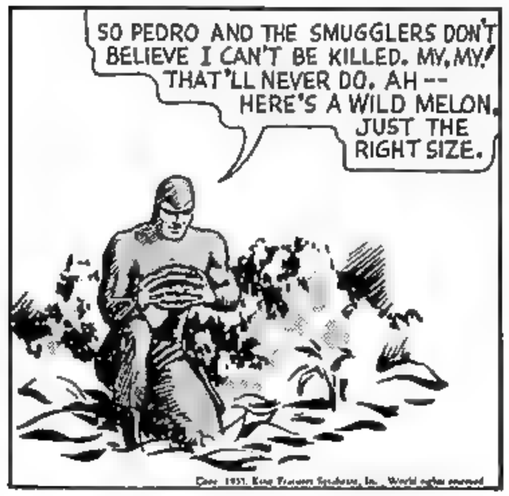

SMILEY MEETS SMUGGLERS ON THE BEACH.
WHAT KINDA HELP YOU WANT? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU SEEN A GHOST.
SEEN ONE! I GOT ONE HOUNDIN' ME RIGHT NOW! YOU EVER HEARD OF THE PHANTOM?
YEH.
I'M TELLING YOU I SHOT HIM, SAW HIM FALL! A FEW HOURS LATER, I SEE HIM AGAIN--UNTOUCHED. HE AIN'T HUMAN!
SMILEY DOESN'T KNOW HIS BULLET MISSED THE PHANTOM!
SO?
LOOK! HE'S ON MY TRAIL! IT'S GOT ME DAFFY. HERE'S SEVEN THOUSANDS BUCKS. IT'S ALL YOURS--IF YOU FINISH HIM OFF--KILL HIM!
REAL MONEY! BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I'D SAY IT WAS OURS RIGHT NOW, STRANGER ---WHETHER THIS PHANTOM SHOWS UP--OR NOT!

I--I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY. I WANT THE PHANTOM-- KNOCKED OFF!
I HEARD OF THIS PHANTOM. EVERYBODY IN ORIENT HAS HEARD OF HIM, BUT ME, PEDRO. I ALWAYS SAY HE CAN BE KILLED LIKE ANY OTHER MAN.

NOW YOU JUST STICK WITH US. WHEN THIS PHANTOM COMES, ME AND MY BOYS FILL HIM WITH SO MUCH LEAD, HE CAN BE USED FOR BALLAST IN SHIP--HAHA.

SO! THAT'S THE WAY IT IS! LET'S SEE. WHAT WAS IT THAT DAD ALWAYS SAID TO DO IN A CASE LIKE THIS? "WHEN YOU COME ACROSS FOLKS---
MEANWHILE, THE PHANTOM LISTENS—

---WHO DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN'T BE KILLED. WHY, JUST LET THEM KILL YOU A FEW TIMES TO PROVE THEY'RE WRONG!"
TOMORROW- PHANTOM PROOF


SO PEDRO AND THE SMUGGLERS DON'T BELIEVE I CAN'T BE KILLED. MY, MY! THAT'LL NEVER DO. AH -- HERE'S A WILD MELON, JUST THE RIGHT SIZE.

I CAN SEE THAT PEDRO AND HIS PALS NEED A LITTLE CONVINCING. I HAVEN'T USED THIS METHOD FOR A LONG TIME.

NOW--THE BODY IS READY. AND HERE'S THE HEAD. NOW TO TAKE OFF OUR DUDS---

AND NOW, I'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL DARK, SO THAT MR. SCARECROW WILL BE MORE CONVINCING. ONLY HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO SCARE SMUGGLERS INSTEAD OF CROWS.
tomorrow- MR. SCARECROW

OH--HIM!

THE PHANTOM--STANDING BACK THERE--IN THE BUSHES!

HAHA--SMILEY RUNS LIKE A RABBIT. COME ON--WE TAKE CARE OF THIS PHANTOM!
BRT

FIRE!

HE'S STILL STANDING!
GIVE HIM ANOTHER BLAST! FIRE!

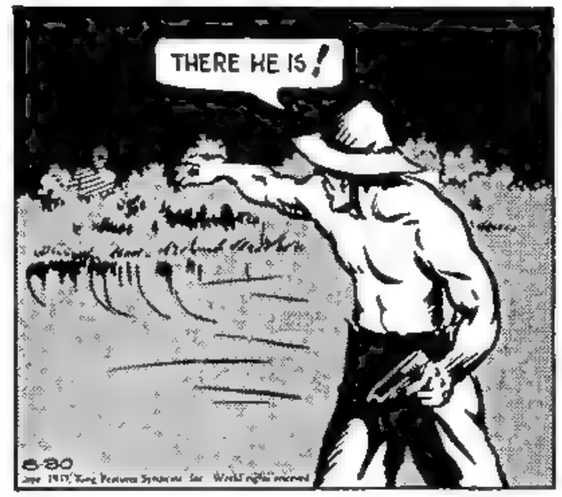
THERE, THAT FINISHED HIM! HE WENT DOWN, ALL RIGHT!

COME ON, SMILEY. WE GO SEE WHAT'S LEFT OF THIS PHANTOM.
YOU'RE SURE YOU--GOT HIM?

GONE!
WHAT!
I TOLD YOU! I TOLD YOU! HE AIN'T REAL!
CONTINUED—

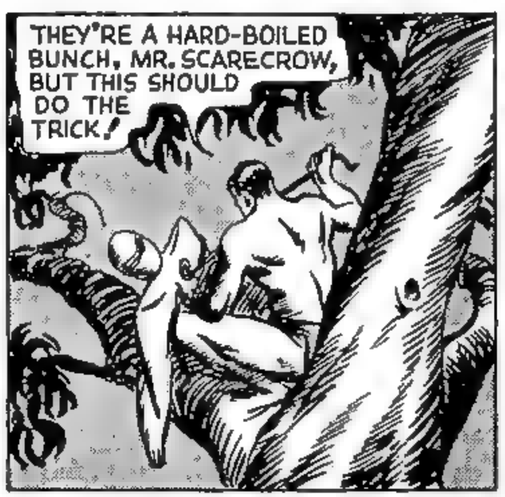
PEDRO'S FIRING SQUAD SHOOTS AT THE PHANTOM TWICE AND THEN--
HE'S GONE! I TOLD YOU YOU COULDN'T KILL HIM! HE AIN'T REAL!
BOSH! WE HIT HIM TWICE! HE MUSTA CRAWLED AWAY--TO DIE. SEARCH THE BUSHES, BOYS!

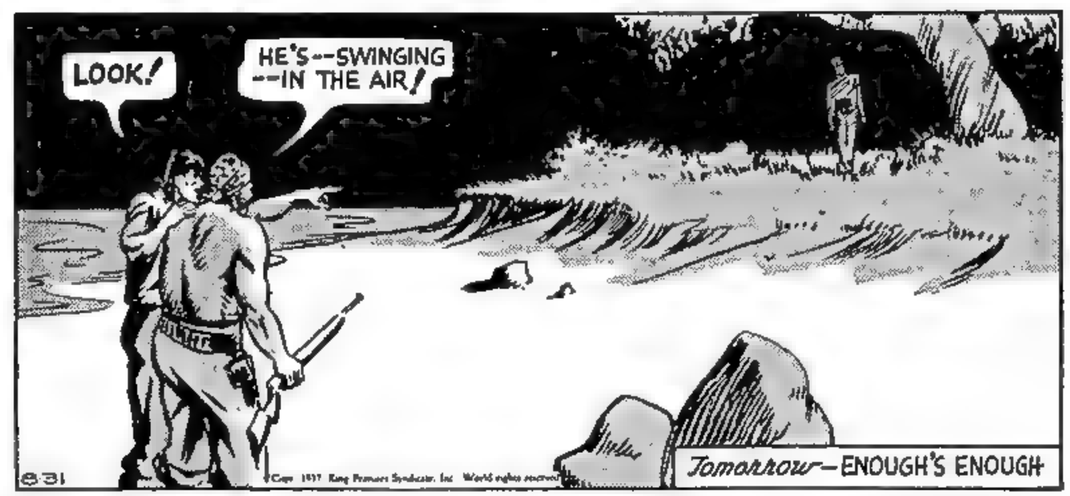
HMM--FIVE BULLETS IN THIS SCARECROW. LUCKY IT WAS A MELON AND NOT MY HEAD IN THERE! WELL--THEY STILL NEED MORE CONVINCING!

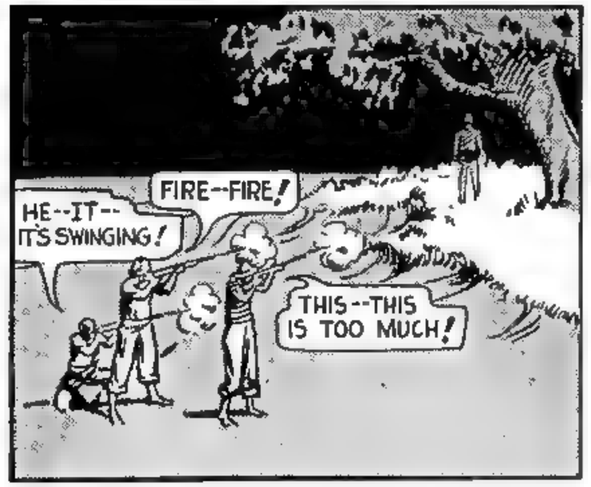

THERE HE IS!
8-30

FIRE--AT WILL!

I TELL YOU HE WAS HERE!
I GOT HIM TWICE!
SO DID I! I SAW HIM FALL!


THEY'RE A HARD-BOILED BUNCH, MR. SCARECROW, BUT THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

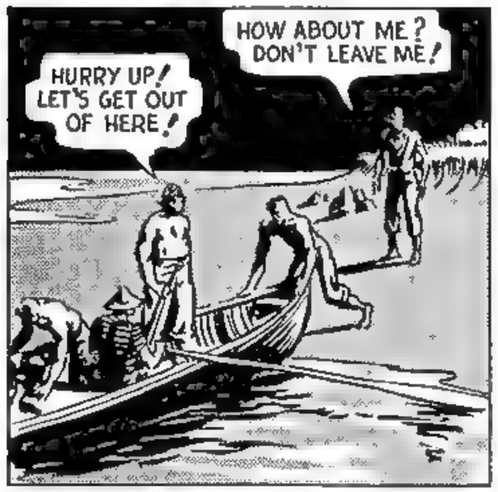

LOOK!
HE'S--SWINGING --IN THE AIR!
8-31
Tomorrow—ENOUGH'S ENOUGH

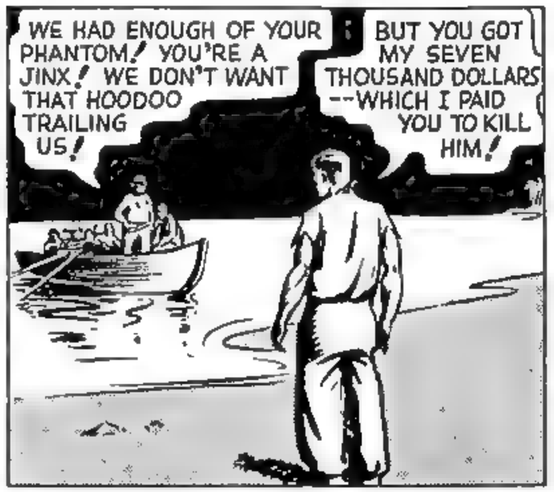

HE--IT--IT'S SWINGING!
FIRE--FIRE!
THIS--THIS IS TOO MUCH!

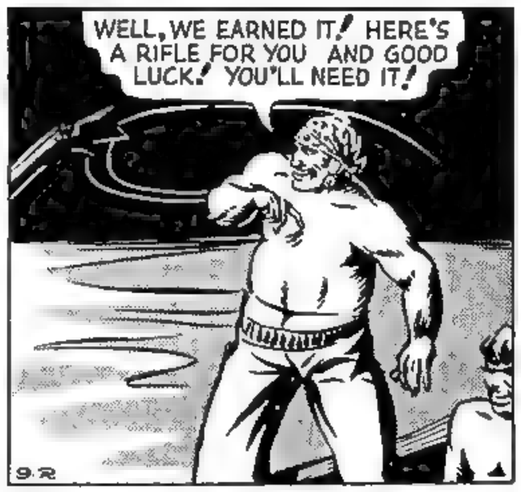
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
IT'S NOT--HUMAN!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

WAIT FOR ME! WAIT FOR ME!!
9-1

THAT DID IT! OUR HARD-BOILED SMUGGLERS ARE SOFT-BOILED NOW! AND NOW--FOR SMILEY!

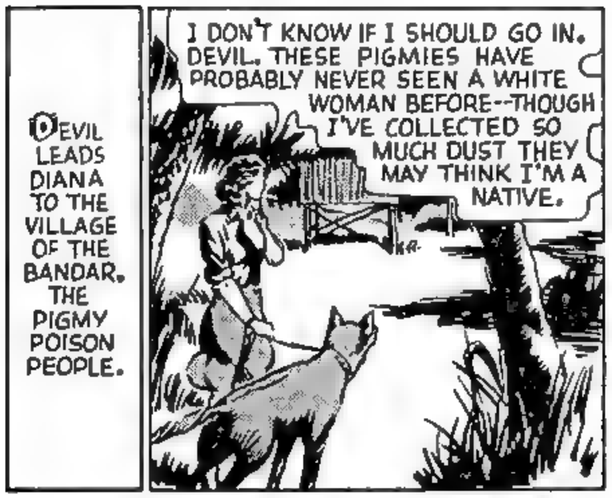

HOW ABOUT ME? DON'T LEAVE ME!
HURRY UP! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!


WE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR PHANTOM! YOU'RE A JINX! WE DON'T WANT THAT HOODOO TRAILING US!
BUT YOU GOT MY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS --WHICH I PAID YOU TO KILL HIM!


WELL, WE EARNED IT! HERE'S A RIFLE FOR YOU AND GOOD LUCK! YOU'LL NEED IT!
9-2

The SMUGGLERS DESERT SMILEY, LEAVING HIM TO HIS FATE.
I MUSTA BEEN DAFFY TO BELIEVE THE PHANTOM AIN'T REAL. AFTER ALL, THAT PALMER DAME WAS HIS GIRL! AND I NEVER HEARD OF A DAME IN LOVE WITH A GHOST!
HE'S JUST TRICKY, THAT'S ALL, AND CLEVER! WELL, BY GOSH, IF HE'S COMIN'-- HE'LL FIND OLD SMILEY READY FOR HIM. THINK I'LL GET UP IN THAT TREE!
AND WHEN HE COMES, I'LL SEE HIM FIRST! THERE-- THERE HE IS---
9-3

I CAN'T MISS HIM FROM HERE!!
THE PHANTOM HEARS A FAINT STIR IN THE LEAVES AND IN THE SAME SPLIT SECOND--SHOOTS---
9-4
THE END OF SMILEY.


DEVIL LEADS DIANA TO THE VILLAGE OF THE BANDAR. THE PIGMY POISON PEOPLE.
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD GO IN. DEVIL. THESE PIGMIES HAVE PROBABLY NEVER SEEN A WHITE WOMAN BEFORE--THOUGH I'VE COLLECTED SO MUCH DUST THEY MAY THINK I'M A NATIVE.

THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST SAVAGE PEOPLE IN THE JUNGLE! THEY--THEY MAY NOT ACCEPT YOU AS MY PASSPORT, DEVIL---

WELCOME, PHANTOM'S QUEEN!
96

PHANTOM'S QUEEN-- THEY JUMP AT CONCLUSIONS! HMM-- THE PHANTOM--THAT NAME MEANS MORE THAN A DOZEN PASSPORTS HERE!

THIS--IS HIS THRONE! WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEVIL? YOU WANT ME TO GET OFF? I SUPPOSE YOU THINK WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE KITCHEN.

IMAGINE, DEVIL! I'M ALL ALONE IN THIS PIGMY VILLAGE IN THE DEPTH OF THE JUNGLE-- AND JUST AS SAFE AS IF I WERE AT HOME!

OH!

DARLING!
97

WHAT--ABOUT SMILEY?
SMILEY HAS--FOUND PEACE AT LAST--I HOPE, BUT LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT HIM. I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY FROM ME THIS TIME.

JUST TRY.
WE'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY AND BUILD A NICE HOME OVER IN THAT CLEARING!

HOME-- HERE? YOU MEAN--LIVE HERE--IN THE JUNGLE--?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE JUNGLE?
9-8

I--I CAN'T SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE-- I MEAN-- NO--
WELL--IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL --AW--DIANA--

DIANA, I'M A FOOL. I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT A GIRL LIKE YOU COULDN'T BE HAPPY HERE--- IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

YOUR LIFE IS IN THE CITIES--WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL GO --TO LIVE.
9-9

BUT-- DARLING--
IT'LL BE STRANGE. FOR CENTURIES THERE HAS BEEN A PHANTOM IN THESE JUNGLES. SOMETIMES THEY LEFT FOR A WHILE -- BUT THEY ALWAYS CAME BACK.

EVERYTHING ENDS SOMETIME. I SUPPOSE THE PHANTOM LINE MUST STOP SOMEPLACE. WHY NOT NOW?

I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE THE JUNGLE. THESE PEOPLE NEED YOU.
I WON'T HAVE YOU LIVING HERE. IT'S NO PLACE FOR YOU.

DIANA--WE'RE HAVING A SILLY LOVERS' QUARREL.
ARE WE?

OF COURSE, LET'S KISS AND MAKE UP.

GURAN, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE PHANTOM LEFT THE JUNGLE-- FOREVER?
PHANTOM LEAVE -- FOREVER? IMPOSSIBLE. HE ALWAYS COMES BACK.

BUT-- IF HE DID?
WE WOULD BE HELPLESS! WITHOUT THE PHANTOM'S PEACE THERE WOULD BE WARS--KILLING. HE IS OUR PROTECTOR.

I SEE.

THIS STREAM REACHES THE SEA NEAR FRASERTOWN. IT'D BE AN EASY MATTER TO PADDLE DOWN, WOULDN'T IT?
YES.
Continued—

THE CANOE IS SOUND AND THE SUPPLIES ARE IN IT.
REMEMBER, GURAN. YOU'VE PROMISED ME NOT TO TELL HIM WHERE I'VE GONE. WAIT HERE.
DARLING--IT'LL BE BETTER THIS WAY. YOU'RE NEEDED HERE. I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE AND I'D ONLY BE IN THE WAY HERE---
GOOD--GOODBYE--DAR--DARLING--
9-13

TOP OF THE MORNING TO YOU, DEVIL. AND A FINE MORNING IT IS. COME ON, FELLA. LET'S WAKE UP DIANA.
WAKE UP, LAZY BONES. THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM, YOU KNOW--OR DON'T YOU LIKE WORMS? DIANA---
DIANA--WHERE ARE YOU--WHAT'S THIS? A NOTE---
9-14
Darling—
Please don't try to follow me. You belong to the jungle. I'm a city gal at heart. I'll always love you—
Diana

NO--I CANNOT TELL. I DO NOT KNOW WHERE SHE WENT.
GURAN, YOU LIE POORLY. TELL ME OR I'LL FILL YOUR HEAD WITH DEMONS!

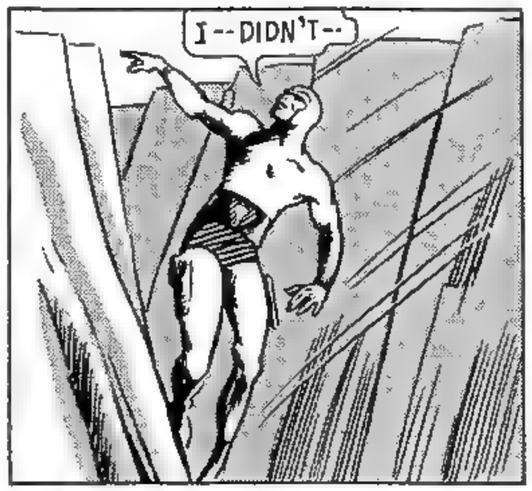
I AM A WITCH-DOCTOR. I KNOW THERE ARE REALLY NO SUCH THINGS AS DEMONS.

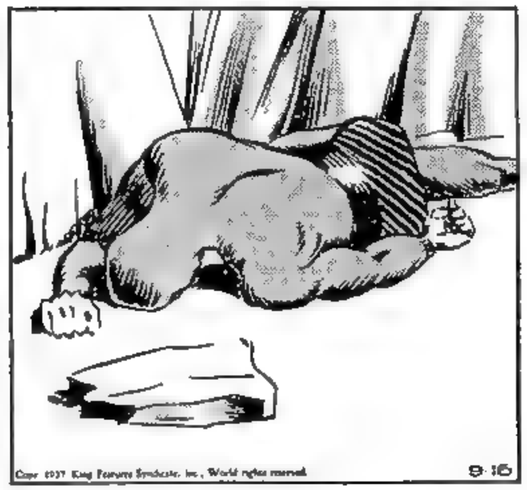
COME ON, FOR PETE SAKES, YOU RASCAL! I LOVE THE GIRL.
WELL--I PROMISED NOT TO TELL--BUT THE PROMISE WAS NOT SEALED WITH BLOOD, AS IS OUR CUSTOM --SO--

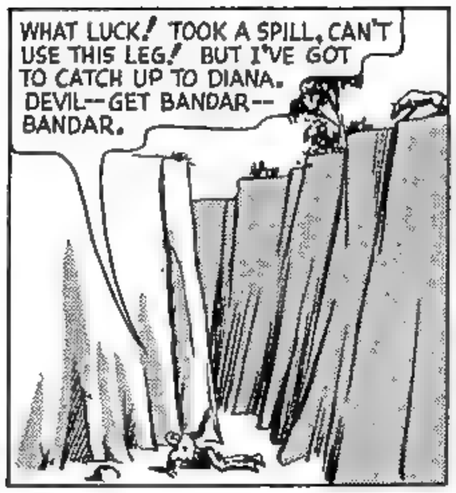
SHE LEFT LAST NIGHT-- IN A CANOE -- DOWNSTREAM, HEADED FOR FRASERTOWN. SHE SEEMED--AGITATED! LOVE--IT IS THE ONLY REAL DEMON.

IF I DON'T CROSS THIS GULCH AND USE THE SHORT-CUT, I'LL NEVER REACH DIANA IN TIME! IT'S PRETTY WIDE--BUT--MAYBE A RUNNING JUMP'LL DO IT.
RUNNING AWAY FROM ME-- IS SHE? I'LL BRING HER BACK!

WELL, HERE GOES. EITHER I DO--OR I DON'T.


I--DIDN'T--




WHAT LUCK! TOOK A SPILL, CAN'T USE THIS LEG! BUT I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP TO DIANA. DEVIL--GET BANDAR--BANDAR.

DIANA! YOU AMAZE ME! YOU ALMOST BROKE YOUR NECK TRYING TO FIND THE PHANTOM. THEN, WHEN YOU DO FIND HIM, YOU DASH AWAY. WELL-- I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN!
IN FRASERTOWN--

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEM, MYSELF.
HERE YOU COME POPPING OUT OF THE JUNGLE, AND-- DIANA --YOU STILL LOVE HIM!
9-17

YES. I RAN AWAY, HALF--HOPING THAT HE'D COME AFTER ME. MAYBE HE WILL.

I GUESS HE TOOK ME AT MY WORD--AND ISN'T COMING, AFTER ALL.
DIANA, I KNOW THIS IS THE WRONG TIME, BUT I NEVER GIVE UP HOPE. DO YOU THINK THERE'S A CHANCE FOR ME?

I'M ALL MIXED UP, MEL. I THOUGHT HE'D FOLLOW ME. I HAVE TO GET AWAY--FOR A WHILE-- HOME AGAIN.
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL ARRANGE PASSAGE. THERE'S A BOAT --TOMORROW.

YOU CAN'T WALK ON THAT LEG FOR MANY DAYS.
I KNOW, GURAN. MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST, AFTER ALL.
9-18

I GUESS SHE FOUND OUT THAT SHE DIDN'T LOVE ME. AND I HAD TO GALLOP AFTER HER LIKE A LOVE-SICK CALF. I'LL JUST HAVE TO FORGET HER-- WHICH IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE---
STARTING NEXT WEEK
LITTLE TOMA

afterword

For Those Who Came in Late...

Lee Falk was a young writer from St. Louis who wrote for a radio station that created and aired adventures from pulp figures like *The Spider*. It may be from this experience that Falk drew his inspiration for his comic strip *The Phantom*. *The Spider* left an imprint of a spider on the faces on the villains he defeated in battle. *The Phantom* likewise left a calling card of a skull mark on the jaws of the bad guys he dispatched.

Credited as the first mainstream costumed comics hero, *The Phantom* was originally conceived to be the alter ego of playboy Jimmy Wells, a more typical convention for such adventure heroes. However, as the story progressed, Falk's decision to instead create an exotic identity of a legendary jungle figure and relegate Wells to a minor character in the initial story gave his character a unique story line that has resonated with fans for more than seven decades.

The Phantom debuted before *Superman* and *Batman*, and like the latter, had no super powers. As to whether *The Phantom* is considered a superhero or a costumed crime fighter depends upon the definition of the term. Superhero is a phrase that had not been coined when *The Phantom* was first published. Jim Shepherd, editor and publisher of Frew, the Australian publisher of Phantom material, defined a superhero as someone who does things beyond the range of normal human accomplishment. In this regard, *The Phantom* would certainly qualify, as would its creator, Lee Falk who wrote short stories, plays, novels, owned and ran six playhouses, and was responsible for hundreds of stage productions as well as another land mark comic strip, *Mandrake the Magician*.

Falk's original idea for a name for his character was "The Gray Ghost," which was also the name of John Singleton Mosby, an authentic civil war hero. Mosby's daring real life exploits were reminiscent of Falk's fictional hero the subject of this volume. It may have been his initial intention to simply dress his character in gray like Mosby, but a series of brainstorming sessions with Falk's collaborator, artist, Ray Moore and some of Moore's colleagues yielded a far more interesting result. With the mask and cowl of an old time executioner, a skintight form fitting suit reminiscent of a circus performer, and an eerie skull motif, the strip captured the imagination of readers on a global level and has served as a prototype for the attire of countless superheroes to follow.

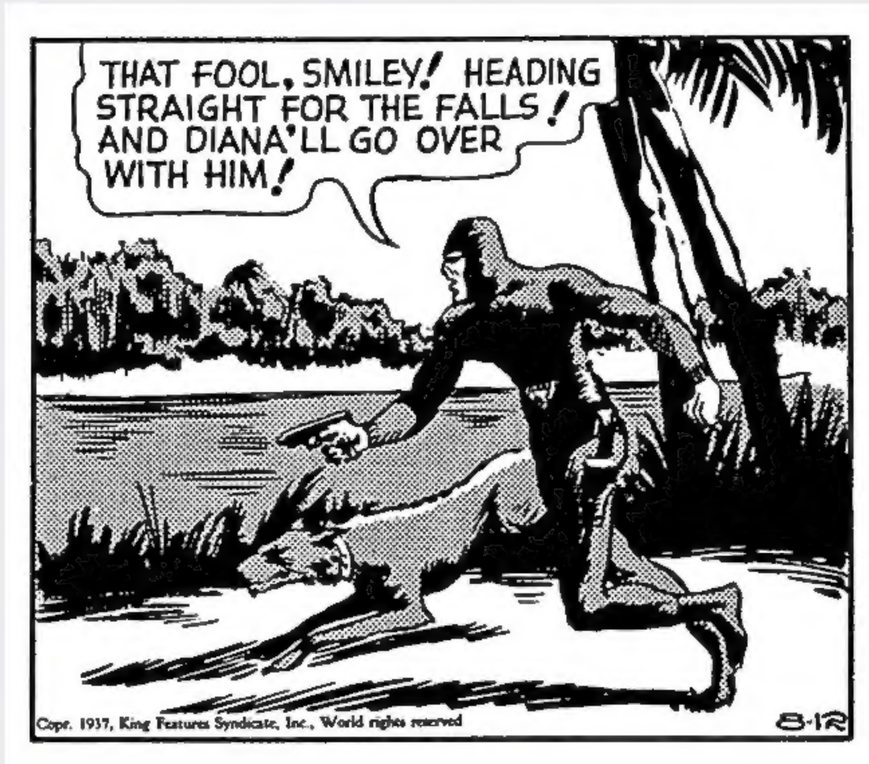
MY JUNGLE PEOPLE WILL NOT FAIL ME.

Keeping in mind that in the earlier years of the strip, greater space was allotted in newspapers for the artwork and the original drawings were also much larger, the panels had a very different look from contemporary comic strips and comic books. Ray Moore, who began working with Falk as an assistant on *Mandrake the Magician*, a strip that began in 1934, used a loose style with bold, dramatic brushstrokes rather than tight pen work that characterized *The Phantom's* later years.

It was during the course of the first adventure that the conventions for the character evolved and crystallized. At first, *The Phantom* wore gloves, outside shorts, and a black domino mask which revealed his eyes. Soon the gloves were abandoned, the hatching used to shade the shorts quickly turned to stripes, a skull was added to the belt, and the eye holes in the mask were left blank adding more mystery to the appearance. The ring which began as a skull centered in a striped triangle, soon became a simple skull…a style that would change over the years from artist to artist.

In the earliest stories, *The Phantom* also was more fantasy based and dwelled in a mysterious place that shared the characteristics of both India and Africa. Falk's work was influenced by reality and classic literature, and it evolved with the times. What was appropriate for the 1930's would be deemed unacceptable for modern times, but as late as 1989, *National Geographic* reported that the Ituri, the real pygmy tribe Lee Falk's Bandar are based on, was still living in huts made of vegetation and using poison tipped spears and arrows. However, by the time the 1996 Paramount film was released, only

Overleaf: a panel from December 18, 1936. Left: a press proof sheet for the week of July 3, 1937; dailies from this proof will appear in the next volume. Opposite page left and right: panels from remastered proofs from August 12 and August 21, 1937.



the slightest hint of the skull throne was allowed, and the idea of the Phantom being a ruler of the jungle changed to that of a protector of the jungle. With that in mind, one might view these early stories with a sense of zeitgeist.

The concept of a hero who has the reputation of being immortal added another interesting twist. In order to maintain the façade, *The Phantom* had to exhibit ultimate bravery in the face of death, and he does so making wisecracks in situations which would cause a mere mortal to tremble. This also infuses the comic strip with some comedy.

Perhaps the most enduring aspect of the early work, was due to the fact that Falk was an aspiring playwright and constructed *The Phantom's* adventures like scenes from stage productions influenced by legendary heroes from history and literature. In a scene inspired from *Hamlet*, the Phantom takes an oath on the skull of his father's murderer.

"I swear vengeance against the Singh, against all piracy, greed and cruelty. I swear as long as my descendants walk the earth, the eldest male in the family shall carry out my work."

In the years to come, the oath becomes more streamlined, the characters more developed, but the ingredients for the most enduring action adventure comic hero of all time were set in place in this powerful beginning.

— Ed Rhoades

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